The information presented is intended for general information and educational purposes. It is not intended to replace the advice of your health care provider. Contact your health care provider if you believe you have a health problem.

Aurora Health Care*  For Your Well-Being

Tuberculin (TB) Skin Test (PPD)

Return to the office within 48 to 72 hours to have your TB test read. If you do not return within this time, we will not be able to read your test and it will need to be repeated.

Your appointment for reading your skin test is:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date:</th>
<th>Time:</th>
<th>Place:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

You should not receive a PPD skin test if you have had a previous positive reaction to the PPD skin test or know you have had TB.

How do I care for the test site?
- Do not cover the injection spot.
- Do not scratch your arm.
- If it itches, put a cold washcloth on it.
- When you wash it, pat your arm dry. Do not rub it.

What is Tuberculin test?
The tuberculin skin test (PPD) checks if your body ever carried the germ that causes tuberculosis. Tuberculosis (TB) is an infection that usually starts in the lungs. TB germs are easily spread to others when a person with TB coughs or sneezes. You may have breathed in TB germs into your lungs. TB germs can live in your body without making you sick. But, you may get sick with TB later.

How is a TB test read?
When you return, the staff will feel your arm for a bump. Redness around the area is normal and does not mean you have TB. If you have a bump the size of a pencil eraser or bigger, your test may be positive.

What does a positive test mean?
A positive test usually means that you have been exposed to the TB germ. You may need other tests to see if you have active TB that needs medical treatment. If you have active TB, your doctor will give you medicines to fight the infection. Even if you do not have active TB, you may need to take medicine to keep you from getting sick with TB later.

If the test is negative, this usually means you are not infected. However, it takes 2 to 10 weeks after being around a person with TB for the skin test to be positive. You may need to be tested again in 1 to 3 weeks to make sure you do not have TB.

If you are infected with HIV (the virus that causes AIDS) or other illness, your body may not react to a TB skin test. You may need other tests.

What side effects can this test have?
Common side effects that are not serious are:
- Pain at the site of the shot
- Itching
- Minor rash.

Call your doctor right away if you have:
- High fever over 103 degrees.
- Skin blistering or peeling