



HEALTH AFFAIRS

THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

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WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1200

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MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE (RESERVE
AFFAIRS)
DIRECTOR, JOINT STAFF
SURGEON GENERAL OF THE ARMY
SURGEON GENERAL OF THE NAVY
SURGEON GENERAL OF THE AIR FORCE
DEPUTY DIRECTOR, TRICARE MANAGEMENT
ACTIVITY
DEFENSE SUPPLY CENTER PHILADELPHIA

SUBJECT: Policy for the Use of Tubersol as the Preferred Brand of Tuberculin

Tuberculosis is one of the three leading causes of death worldwide. The threat of tuberculosis is a significant threat to force health protection and a public health problem that requires surveillance, treatment, and the implementation of control measures. Skin testing with an intradermal purified protein derivative (PPD) is the most common diagnostic aid used to identify persons latently infected with *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*.

There are two brands of PPD currently available in the United States, Aplisol (Parkedale) and Tubersol (Sanofi Pasteur). There are multiple reports in the medical literature that associate Aplisol with false positive tuberculin skin tests. These false positive tests may result in lengthy treatment with medications that have potentially harmful side effects and falsely label the patient as infected, resulting in no future screening for tuberculosis. In addition to the risk to our beneficiary population, false positive tuberculin skin tests also consume medical and personnel resources, affecting our mission capability and readiness.

Therefore, Tubersol will be the preferred brand of tuberculin effective immediately. Subsequent acquisition of tuberculin will be consistent with this policy. Acquisition and use of Aplisol will be limited to times of supply shortages of Tubersol.

S. Ward Casscells, MD

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