

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
BUREAU OF HUMAN SERVICES LICENSING
Community Homes for Individuals with Mental Retardation
(55 Pa.Code Chapter 6400)

Q/A - Regulatory Clarifications – September 2015

The clarifications and interpretations below will remain on the Department's web site until the information is included in the next updated Regulatory Compliance Guide (RCG).

Regulation: § 6400.141(b), (c)(6) – Individual Physical Examination

§ 6400.141 -

(b) The physical examination shall be completed, signed and dated by a licensed physician, certified nurse practitioner or licensed physician's assistant.

(c) The physical examination shall include:

(6) Tuberculin skin testing by Mantoux method with negative results every 2 years for individuals 1 year of age or older; or, if tuberculin skin test is positive, an initial chest x-ray with results noted.

Question: Are medical assistants permitted to read an individual's TB skin test?

ANSWER: According to the CDC, a TB skin test should be read by a "health-care worker trained to read tuberculin skin testing (TST) results." Therefore, a medical assistant who has been trained to read TST results is considered qualified and is permitted to do so under the regulations.

Regulation: § 6400.141(c)(9) – Individual Physical Examination

§ 6400.141(c) - The physical examination shall include:

(9) A prostate examination for men 40 years of age or older.

Question: Is a facility compliant with the regulation requiring prostate examinations for men 40 years of age or older if the physician indicates in writing the prostate examination is not indicated and that a Prostate-Specific Antigen (PSA) blood test is sufficient?

ANSWER: Yes. If an individual's physician has attested in writing that a prostate exam is not needed and that a PSA blood test is sufficient, then BHSL will find the facility compliant with the regulation.

Regulation: § 6400.186(a) – ISP Review and Revision

§ 6400.186(a) - The program specialist shall complete an ISP review of the services and expected outcomes in the ISP specific to the residential home licensed under this chapter with the individual every 3 months or more frequently if the individual's needs change which impacts the services as specified in the current ISP.

Question: Does the 15-day grace period for the ISP review start at the end of the 3 month review, or when the ISP review was actually completed?

ANSWER: The 15-day grace period for the ISP review starts at the end of the 3 month review. For example, if an individual's 3 month ISP review period is from 01/01/2015 to 03/31/2015, then the 15-day grace period begins on 04/01/2015. The home would have to have the ISP review completed by 04/15/2015.