

## Tuberculosis (TB) Screening in Long-term Care and Retirement Homes

### Active TB Screening Checklist for Clinicians

Please remember, the elderly may not present with classic signs and symptoms of active TB Disease. In the elderly, consider tuberculosis in the differential diagnosis of failure to thrive and unexplained fatigue.

| Symptom                    | Yes | No | Comments |
|----------------------------|-----|----|----------|
| Cough greater than 3 weeks |     |    |          |
| Hemoptysis                 |     |    |          |
| Fever                      |     |    |          |
| Night Sweats               |     |    |          |
| Unintentional weight loss  |     |    |          |
| Anorexia                   |     |    |          |
| Chest pain                 |     |    |          |
| Dyspnea                    |     |    |          |

| Chest x-ray findings                 | Yes | No | Comments |
|--------------------------------------|-----|----|----------|
| Cavities                             |     |    |          |
| Infiltrates                          |     |    |          |
| Nodules                              |     |    |          |
| Pleural effusions                    |     |    |          |
| Hilar or mediastinal lymphadenopathy |     |    |          |
| Changes in apices of lungs           |     |    |          |
| Densities                            |     |    |          |
| Volume loss                          |     |    |          |
| Fibrosis                             |     |    |          |
| Granulomas                           |     |    |          |

Reference: Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care. Tuberculosis Protocol (Version 1.0). Diagnostics. P. 55; Public Health Agency of Canada & The Lung Association (2007). Canadian Tuberculosis Standards (7<sup>th</sup> Ed.), Chapter 3 – Diagnosis of Active Tuberculosis and Drug Resistance. P. 45

**If there are concerning findings on either the review of symptoms or the chest x-ray, three sputums for acid-fast bacilli (AFB) and culture should be ordered for collection each at least 8 hours apart, to rule out active TB.**