

Dear Colleague:

A shortage of tuberculin purified protein derivative (PPD; Tubersol® and Aplisol®) needed for tuberculosis testing began in autumn 2012 when the supply of Tubersol® was interrupted. A shortage of Aplisol® ensued. Although the production of Tubersol® has been restored, the two PPD products might not be available from all suppliers yet. During recent times when supplies of PPD have been depleted, opioid treatment programs (OTPs), state opioid treatment authorities, and other licensing or accrediting bodies have sought guidance from the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT).

Opioid dependency is a suspected independent risk factor for tuberculosis, and it is a surrogate marker for other tuberculosis risks. The code of federal regulations governing OTP operation (42CFR Part 8) does not specifically require screening for tuberculosis, although some state regulations or third-party provider contracts may require it. If this is the case, OTPs are advised to collaborate with the responsible agencies to devise mutually acceptable agreements for individual chart documentation and selective use of remaining PPD.

Information about the national availability of PPD products can be obtained by calling 1-800-822-2463 for Tubersol® and 1-877-547-4547 for Aplisol®. The national availability of these products might not be reflected in your local pharmaceutical distributor's supplies. The Food and Drug Administration monitors shortages of biological products. Please check: <http://www.fda.gov/BiologicsBloodVaccines/SafetyAvailability/Shortages/default.htm> for updates.

Pending a full resolution of the shortages the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has provided guidance at http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6216a5.htm?s_cid=mm6216a5_w. You may also wish to consult with your county, district, or state health departments, particularly regarding management of your remaining supply. For further questions please contact Dr. Melinda Campopiano at (240) 276-2701 or melinda.campopiano@samhsa.hhs.gov.

Sincerely,

H. Westley Clark, M.D., J.D., M.P.H., CAS, FASAM
Director
Center for Substance Abuse Treatment