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December 31, 2019

Michele Ovesey, Esq.  
Acting Executive Director  
NYC Board of Correction  
1 Centre Street, Room 2213  
New York, NY 10007

Dear Ms. Ovesey:

In accordance with the Board of Correction's New York City Correctional Health Care Minimum Standards, Section 3-13, "Variances," the Correctional Health Services (CHS) division of the NYC Health + Hospitals requests renewal, for a 6-month period, of a continuing variance from Section 3-04(b)(2)(v)(a) of the Minimum Standards, which requires that a tuberculin skin test (TST) be administered during the intake screening process for inmates who do not have a prior history of a positive reaction to the test. The variance, first granted by the Board in July 2013, and applicable to inmates throughout the NYC correctional system, authorizes CHS to use either interferon gamma release assays (IGRA) or TST for tuberculosis screening, and to exempt from repeat screening those prisoners who have a documented negative test in the six months prior to their admission.

The new tuberculosis screening program began at the RMSC in 2011 and then at facilities housing male inmates in 2012. Since implementation of the program, we have observed that the use of IGRAs at intake is feasible and adds negligible additional time to the intake process, while saving significant time subsequently by obviating the need for post-intake follow-up of TST results and associated documentation. CHS has now had many years of experience with IGRA, which has proven to be a valuable and effective tool in controlling tuberculosis in the jail system.

Accompanying this letter is our report on the IGRA initiative as required by the terms of the variance. Please note that because of a change in electronic health record systems in July 2019, the report for this period contains four months of data commencing in August 2019.

The consideration of the Board members and staff is greatly appreciated in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'RM', is positioned above the typed name.

Ross MacDonald, MD  
Correctional Health Services

cc: Patsy Yang, DrPH

**NYC Health + Hospitals  
Correctional Health Services**

## Quantiferon (QFT) Progress Record

(Dates between 8/1/2019 - 11/30/2019)

Description	Male NYSIDs (8/1/2019 - 11/30/2019)	% Male	Female NYSIDs (8/1/2019 - 11/30/2019)	% Female	Total NYSIDs	% Total
<b>Total NYSIDs with Intakes or State Transfers</b>	<b>8,108</b>		<b>753</b>		8861	
<b>Ineligibles: (% of NYSIDs)</b>						
Positive History	157	1.9%	33	4.4%	190	2.1%
Patients had negative results in previous 6 months	465	5.7%	53	7.0%	518	5.8%
<b>Total Ineligible Patients</b>	<b>622</b>	<b>7.7%</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>11.4%</b>	<b>708</b>	<b>8.0%</b>
<b>Not Tested (% of NYSIDs)</b>						
Lab Result = "Test Not Performed"	46	0.6%	2	0.3%	48	0.5%
Lab Result = "Not available/Discharged"	200	2.5%	23	3.1%	223	2.5%
"Not Tested Other"	167	2.1%	28	3.7%	195	2.2%
<b>Total Not Tested Patients</b>	<b>413</b>	<b>5.1%</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>7.0%</b>	<b>466</b>	<b>5.3%</b>
<b>Total Eligible Intakes or State Transfers that were Tested</b>	<b>7,073</b>	<b>87.2%</b>	<b>614</b>	<b>81.5%</b>	<b>7687</b>	<b>86.8%</b>
<b>Lab Result Breakdown for Eligibles (% of Eligibles)</b>						
Normal/Negative/Non-Reactive	6,714	94.9%	568	92.5%	7282	94.7%
Abnormal/Positive/Reactive	294	4.2%	16	2.6%	310	4.0%
Indeterminate	65	0.9%	30	4.9%	95	1.2%