

CALIFORNIA MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HOUSE OF DELEGATES

TITLE: Targeted Tuberculosis Testing of School Children
Introduced by: Charity Thoman MD, MPH
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WHEREAS, The best public health and medical evidence suggests that universal tuberculosis (TB) testing is neither necessary nor cost-effective; and

WHEREAS, When the tuberculin skin test (TST) is universally applied in low-incidence populations (such as school aged children), its positive predictive value is greatly compromised and test results include a high number of false positives, which create significant social and financial burdens for patients and potentially hepatotoxic TB infection treatment regimens; and

WHEREAS, Replacing universal TB testing of school aged children with a risk assessment questionnaire and TB testing based on the results of that questionnaire is consistent with the positions of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF), American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), American Thoracic Society (ATS), American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP), Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA), California Department of Public Health Tuberculosis Control Branch (CDPH TBCB), California Coalition of Local Health Officers (CCLHO), and California Children's Medical Services (CMS); therefore be it

RESOLVED: That CMA supports efforts to replace universal TB testing of school aged children with a TB risk assessment questionnaire, and TB testing of school aged children based on the results of that TB risk assessment; and be it further

RESOLVED: That HOD 705-89 and BOT 9-15-89;2b, which conflict with this policy, be rescinded; and be it further

RESOLVED: That this matter be referred for national action.

Targeted Tuberculosis Testing of School Children Resolution
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