



VOLUME 10: PUBLIC HEALTH	Effective Date: 01/2016
CHAPTER 10.1	Revision Date:
10.10.1 COCCIDIOIDOMYCOSIS SKIN TEST POLICY	Attachments: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

I. POLICY

California Correctional Health Care Services shall ensure health care staff properly performs coccidioidomycosis (cocci) skin test (CST) screening, administration, and evaluation to identify a patient’s risk for contracting cocci.

Health care staff shall provide patient education to patients regarding the CST, ensure patients who may be housed in the Cocci 2 area are offered the CST, and ensure patients who consent or decline the CST complete the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) 7551, Administration or Declination of Coccidioidomycosis Screening. The completed CDCR 7551 shall be filed in the patient’s health record.

Patients who test negative with the CST shall be medically restricted from the Cocci 2 area. Patients who decline the CST may be medically restricted from the Cocci 2 area based on other criteria (e.g., race/ethnicity and medical conditions).

CST results shall be documented in the Cocci Risk Registry through the Cocci Screening System, and in the patient’s health record.

II. PURPOSE

To minimize patient risk of cocci exposure, morbidity, and mortality.

III. DEFINITIONS

Coccidioidomycosis: A disease caused by infection with the fungus *Coccidioides*. The infection usually occurs after inhalation of spores of the fungus. Because the fungus lives in the soil, the inhalation of the spores usually occurs through inhalation of dust. Most infected patients will have no symptoms or will have an influenza-like illness. Some patients develop pneumonia, chronic pneumonia, or systemic disease. Infection infers lifelong immunity to re-infection. Other commonly used names include Valley Fever, California Fever, San Joaquin Valley Fever, and Desert Rheumatism.

Coccidioidomycosis 1 Area: Institutions that pose a moderately high risk of cocci exposure. The specific institutions in this area are outlined in the Inmate Medical Services Policies and Procedures (IMSP&P), Volume 4, Chapter 29.2, Medical Classification System Procedure, Appendix I.

Coccidioidomycosis 2 Area: Institutions that pose the highest risk of cocci exposure. The specific institutions in this area are outlined in the IMSP&P, Volume 4, Chapter 29.2, Medical Classification System Procedure, Appendix I.

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Coccidioidomycosis Risk Registry: A registry that delineates for each patient whether or not they have a medical restriction from Cocci 1 Area and/or Cocci 2 Area. In the clinical version of the registry, the reasons for the restrictions are delineated. The medical restrictions are used to populate the Medical Classification Chrono. The registry can also be used to identify patients who need to be offered the CST.

Coccidioidomycosis Screening System: A computer application used by licensed health care staff to enter a patient's cocci skin test information in real time.

Coccidioidomycosis Skin Test: The skin test used to determine hypersensitivity reaction to the spherulin antigen (a component of the fungus that causes cocci). A positive test means that the patient has a lower risk of a new cocci infection after exposure than a person who tests negative. A negative test means the patient has a higher risk of a new cocci infection after exposure than a person who tests positive.

IV. RESPONSIBILITY

The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) or designee of each institution is responsible for the implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of this policy. The CEO or designee shall ensure a Local Operating Procedure is established to implement this policy and its corresponding procedures.

V. REFERENCES

- *Plata v. Brown*, Order Granting Plaintiffs' Motion for Relief Re: Valley Fever at Pleasant Valley and Avenal State Prisons, June 24, 2013
- California Correctional Health Care Services, Inmate Medical Services Policies and Procedures, Volume 4, Chapter 29.2, Medical Classification System Procedure
- California Correctional Health Care Services, Inmate Medical Services Policies and Procedures, Volume 10, Chapter 11.1 and 11.2, Coccidioidomycosis Waiver Policy and Procedure
- California Correctional Health Care Services Care Guide: Coccidioidomycosis, August 2013
- California Correctional Health Care Services Coccidioidomycosis Quick Sheet, August 2013
- California Correctional Health Care Services Coccidioidomycosis in California's Adult Prisons 2006–2010 Report, April 16, 2012