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**To: CCG Clinical Leader**

Medical Directorate  
NHS England  
Quarry House  
Quarry Hill  
Leeds  
LS2 7UE

**cc. Accountable Officers,  
NHS England Regional Directors**

10 November 2015

Dear colleague

### **COLLABORATIVE TB STRATEGY: LATENT TB TESTING AND LABORATORY SERVICES**

The £10m funding made available in 2015/16 by NHS England to support implementation of the Collaborative Tuberculosis Strategy for England 2015-2020<sup>1</sup> includes provision for the procurement of latent TB testing kits, laboratory analysis and reporting. Further details can be found in the related commissioning guidance<sup>2</sup> and clinical guidance<sup>3</sup>.

A procurement process has been held to select providers for appointment to a Framework Agreement. The procurement is on the basis of TB Control Board areas with the intention of appointing three providers each for the West Midlands and London Control Boards and one provider for each of the other Control Boards. It will be for individual CCGs to contract with individual providers on the Framework Agreement. The Framework Agreement does not commit CCGs or NHS England to a specific level of activity, or indeed any activity, with the providers. However it does provide a fixed price per latent TB test which individual providers have set out, together with a consistent national service specification.

A copy of the service specification is attached at annex A.

The selection process is presently in its final stages. Assessors have included representation from CCGs, NHS England and Public Health England, together with laboratory providers who do not have an interest in the procurement.

CCGs will be advised of the outcomes of the selection process shortly. However, in order to be able to make use of the arrangements as soon as possible, CCGs should ensure clarity on local commissioning arrangements for these services.

The funding made available by NHS England is intended to be focussed on CCGs

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/collaborative-tuberculosis-strategy-for-england>

<sup>2</sup> Collaborative Tuberculosis Strategy: Commissioning Guidance

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/resources/resources-for-ccgs/out-frwrk/dom-1/tb-strategy/>

<sup>3</sup> Clinical Guidance on Latent TB Infection <https://www.england.nhs.uk/resources/resources-for-ccgs/out-frwrk/dom-1/tb-strategy/>

with high incidence or numbers of TB cases, as set out in the Commissioning Guidance. In July 2015 CCGs were asked to consider identifying lead CCGs within each TB Control Board areas to support delivery of the Strategy<sup>4</sup>. These lead CCGs have submitted latent TB plans, setting out their proposals for how they will offer latent TB testing and treatment for local CCGs with high TB incidence or numbers, and the funding they are seeking from NHS England as part of this. The planned activity levels set out will be used to inform the funding to be distributed to support laboratory testing services.

The roles of the lead CCG were set out as including ensuring that there is clarity on the responsibilities of the lead CCG and other CCGs in relation to TB services. As part of this, lead CCGs should agree with other CCGs how commissioning arrangements in relation to providers on the Framework Agreement will operate, in particular:

- a) whether the lead CCG will commission these services on behalf of other CCGs locally and:
- b) clarity on how the above funding made available to lead CCGs should be used, or shared with other CCGs, to reflect the agreed local arrangements.

With best wishes

Yours sincerely



C L Ingham Clark MBE, M Chir, FRCS  
Director for Reducing Premature Mortality  
**NHS England**

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<sup>4</sup> Letter from NHS England to CCGs 6 July 2015 (Gateway ref. 03653)  
<https://www.england.nhs.uk/resources/resources-for-ccgs/out-fwrk/dom-1/tb-strategy/>