



Dr. Meshkaty & Dr. Barger getting tested for TB!

BUG BITES

A monthly publication from the Infectious Disease (ID) department

MONTHLY INFECTIOUS DISEASE NEWSLETTER

IN THIS ISSUE -FLUORO, VACCINES, TB TESTING

FLUOROQUINOLONE WARNING

Last month, the FDA strengthened the warning for ALL fluoroquinolone antibiotics including IV & PO formulations (ie; *ciprofloxacin*, *levofloxacin*, *moxifloxacin*, etc). There have been multiple reports about hypoglycemia leading to coma, as well as other side effects like delirium. The biggest concern is in older people and patients with diabetes who are taking medicines to reduce blood sugar. Other adverse effects include QTC prolongation, peripheral neuropathy, tendinitis, and risk of Cdiff. Avoid coingestion with antacids, dairy and vitamins as this decreases absorption. Please remember that many patients may not even need antibiotics at all!

TUBERCULOSIS SCREENING

All medical staff must be tested annually for latent tuberculosis. This is done to determine your risk for developing active TB in the future due to frequent risk of exposure to TB in our county. A skin test/PPD or blood test/Quantiferon must be done annually to ensure you remain safe. You also need annual N95 mask fit testing. If you are not up-to-date, please contact employee health even if you are an independent contractor to assist and guide you.

Even the ID doctors just had their PPDs checked and are both negative! (See Photo)

Question of the Month

How can clinics help patients understand the importance of withholding antibiotics?

In Cerner under Patient Education, select “all” not “suggested” and “contains” not “starts with.” Then enter antibiotic in search field in order to get a great CDC document “Antibiotics a commitment to patients.”

You can give your patients this commitment as well as any other documents in link below.

<https://www.cdc.gov/antibiotic-use/community/materials-references/print-materials/everyone/index.html>

Did you know?

August is **National Immunization Awareness Month** (NIAM). The CDC & the Infectious Disease Department at VCMC/SPH support vaccination for people of all ages. We want to emphasize the importance that vaccinations play in preventing serious, sometimes deadly illnesses.

