

Bupa Medical Visa Service

Information for parents of children attending a Bupa centre

Please read this information carefully.

QuantiFERON-Gold (QFT) Tuberculosis (TB) test for children

Department of Home Affairs policy is that children aged from 2 to 10 years migrating from specified countries require a blood test for TB when they visit a Bupa clinic. This requirement appears as exam 719 on the HAP letter provided by the Department of Home Affairs for your child or children.

The test (QFT) is used to identify children who require x-ray screening for TB as part of their visa health examination. QFT is not a test for active TB. In the visa assessment, a positive test result means that your child requires x-ray, whereas a negative result means that they do not.

At the end of the blood test you will be provided with information explaining the after care process.

Our team will do their best to make this experience as painless as possible for you and your child and we would appreciate your assistance as they guide you during this process.

What will be required at the assessment?

On arrival at the centre, if required, we will apply a numbing cream to your child's skin to provide pain relief to the needle stick site. We will apply this to both elbow pits just in case we need to take blood from either arm. We will complete your child's blood test at the end of your medical assessments in order for the cream to have most effect. At the end of the process you will be provided with an information sheet explaining the after care process.

Our team will do their best to make this experience as painless as possible for you and your child and we would appreciate your assistance as they guide you during this process.

What happens if the test result is negative?

Bupa will not contact you if your child's QFT test result is negative. If you do not hear from us after the appointment, this means the result was negative. If you would like to request a copy of the test result, please ask our Bupa team when you arrive for your appointment or alternatively email us at Enquiries@Bupamvs.com.au

What happens if the test result is positive?

If your child's blood test is positive the Department of Home Affairs requires two chest x-rays as part of their visa health assessment. Our contact centre will call you to arrange an appointment for this service. An additional fee is required.

The positive result does not mean that your child is sick. Most people who have the TB germ in their body have no symptoms and feel healthy. This is called "latent" infection. Also, the QFT test sometimes produces positive results in people who have not been exposed to TB. Unfortunately, there is no test available which is 100% reliable for this purpose.

Some children have symptoms of TB but these are often mild. Symptoms in children can include chronic irritability, a failure to gain weight, tiredness, or fevers. Although these symptoms may be due to conditions other than TB, please let our staff know when you attend the clinic if your child has had these symptoms.

The Department of Home Affairs recommend that all children with a positive QFT result should see a doctor for routine follow-up outside the visa process. If your child's result is positive, we will provide you with a letter explaining the test result to give to the doctor at your next visit. They will be able to provide further information and arrange any additional management if required.

What happens after chest x-ray?

If your child requires chest x-ray, and if the result is normal, Bupa will finalise your child's visa health assessment and forward this result to the Department of Home Affairs.

However, if the chest x-rays show an abnormality which might be TB, your child's health records will be sent to a TB clinic in your area. They will contact you to arrange a visit to their clinic for further checks.

If your child has TB, they may need to be treated. TB can be cured if treatment is taken correctly. All testing and treatment provided by TB clinics in Australia is **free of charge**.

How will this affect my child's visa?

Your child's visa application may be delayed by the additional tests. However, even if your child has TB, once this has been successfully treated, the visa application can proceed.