



D.O.No. Z-28015/76/2021-TB

Dated: 27<sup>th</sup> April, 2021

Dear STOs,

The National TB Elimination Programme (NTEP) India has revised the national 'Guidelines for Programmatic Management of Drug Resistant TB (PMDT) in India – 2021'. This is now in line with the newer evidence-based recommendations in the WHO Consolidated Guidelines for Tuberculosis (2020) and its adoption in consultation with the national technical experts. Hon'ble Minister of Health & Family Welfare, Dr Harsh Vardhan released this guideline on World TB Day – 2021

The Guidelines for PMDT in India – 2021 is updated and hosted on the programme website ([www.tbccindia.gov.in](http://www.tbccindia.gov.in)).

Key highlights of the guidelines are as below:

- Revised definitions including UDST, Pre-XDR, XDR-TB and treatment outcomes.
- Guidance on integration of Ayushman Bharat – Health and Wellness Centres (HWCs) in last mile service delivery and programme management for enhancing decentralization, access and quality care of DR-TB patients and their close contacts.
- Guidance on mandatory establishment of DR-TB centres including all the medical colleges.
- Guidance on establishment of State level - Difficult to Treat TB Clinics (S-DT3C).
- Updated integrated DR-TB diagnostic and treatment algorithm for adults and children.
- Transition to shorter oral Bedaquiline-containing MDR/RR-TB regimen in selected states as first phase. These states will be communicated separately and supported by CTD.
- Updated guidance on Longer oral M/XDR-TB regimen including
  - Updated replacement sequence for modification of longer oral M/XDR-TB regimen.
  - Use of Bedaquiline in children aged 5-17 years.
  - Extended use of Bedaquiline beyond 6 months.
  - Combined use of Bedaquiline and Delamanid.
  - Individualized treatment of M/XDR-TB in pregnancy and lactation.
- Updated guidance on Isoniazid (H) mono/poly DR-TB regimen.
- Introduction of BPAL regimen (Bedaquiline, Pretomanid, Linezolid) in research mode and in exceptional situations under NTEP.
- Implementation of TB preventive treatment for contacts of DR-TB index patients after ruling out active TB and resistance (phased roll-out as above).
- Partnership options, Private-Private Hub & Spoke models and linkages with network of private health-care facilities to partner and engage for improving access and quality of DR-TB care for all.

(Continued to page 2)



- Updated supply chain management and stocking norms for second line anti-TB drugs.
- Complete transition to Nikshay based paperless recording and reporting system by October 2021.
- Leveraging on Nikshay for strengthening Supervision, Monitoring and Evaluation including active drug safety monitoring and management for DR-TB.

States are requested to download afresh the updated guidelines for PMDT in India 2021, internalise it and prepare the NTEP and health system (public & private) to effectively implement the updates with immediate effect.

Standardised training materials have been developed and NTEP will be organizing national level training of trainers for the states to enable quality preparation and implementation of the updated guidelines for PMDT in India 2021. Training of master trainers (STO, STDC, STF and WHO consultants) would be virtually organized shortly and detailed training schedule would be communicated separately.

Best regards,

  
(Dr. Sudarsan Mandal)  
(DDG-TB)

To:

All STOs-States/UTs

Copy to:

- 1) MD (NHM) of all States/UTs
- 2) NPOs, WHO
- 3) WHO-NTEP Consultants
- 4) Dr. Ritu Gupta, ADDG & Consultant (SAG)