



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

July 19, 2011

DEPARTMENT MEMORANDUM

No. 2011 - 0218

TO: ALL DIRECTORS OF CENTERS FOR HEALTH DEVELOPMENT

SUBJECT: Provision of Anti-TB drugs to All Forms of Tuberculosis based on WHO's Recommendation

The National TB Control Program is reminding all the Coordinators that anti-TB drugs should be provided to **ALL** forms of tuberculosis (pulmonary smear positive, pulmonary smear negative and extra-pulmonary TB cases). This is based on the current recommendations of the World Health Organization to remove the smear-positive Case Detection Rate (CDR) as a target indicator and to reduce reliance on CDR (including all forms) as a program target indicator. The Department of Health is committed to provide anti-TB drugs to **ALL** forms of tuberculosis who are managed by health care facilities implementing the DOTS strategy.

Furthermore, based on feedback from different stakeholders regarding the delay of treatment due to the decision of the TB Diagnostic Committee (TBDC), it is advised that the TBDC decision be expedited within two weeks and if this is not possible, the physician in charge should decide if treatment will be given or not, based on their best clinical judgment.

For strict compliance.

By Authority of the Secretary of Health

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gerardo V. Bayugo", is written over the typed name below.

GERARDO V. BAYUGO MD, MPH, CESO III
OIC – Undersecretary of Health
Policy Standards Development and Regulation and
Health Sector Financing Clusters