



Republic of the Philippines  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

DEPARTMENT MEMORANDUM

No. 2014 - 0163

FOR: ALL DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH REGIONAL OFFICE DIRECTORS  
AND THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH, ARMM

FROM: *E. Tanag*  
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SUBJECT: Identification of Potential Treatment Facilities for the Scale-up and  
Expansion of the Programmatic Management of Drug Resistant  
Tuberculosis

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In line with the Enhanced 2010–2016 Philippine Plan of Action to Control Tuberculosis (PhilPACT), the National TB Control Program (NTP) aims to expand the Programmatic Management of Drug Resistant TB (PMDT) network to improve access to quality MDR-TB services. This is one of the recommendations of the Joint Program Review team last September 2013, to scale up the availability of services by capacitating more DOTS facilities to diagnose and treat the growing numbers of drug-resistant TB cases, and to address the increasing numbers of patients lost to ff-up due to poor accessibility and transportation cost. Under The Global Fund New Funding Model, support for an additional 123 PMDT treatment facilities will be established in the country in order to achieve the PhilPACT goal of detecting 19500 MDRTB patients and to achieve a treatment success rate of 75%.

Under the new implementing arrangement of PMDT, the DOH Regional Offices through the NTP Regional Coordinators shall identify potential treatment facilities. The following are the criteria for PMDT treatment facilities:

1. **POLITICAL WILL** – The facility should express willingness to become a PMDT treatment facility, acknowledging that it is a growing concern in their area. The management and staff of the nominated facility should support this initiative.
2. **GOOD DOTS PERFORMANCE** – The facility should be a DOTS facility catering to the drug susceptible cases in its catchment area; with a recording and reporting mechanism, latest treatment success rate of  $\geq 80\%$  and lost to ff-up rate of  $< 5\%$ .
3. **ACCESIBILITY** – Priority of a public hospital (regional, provincial, municipal) should be taken into consideration since a significant number of patients seek consult in public hospitals. RHUs that are good performing may also be considered. The

strategic location of the site should be taken into consideration and the distance to existing PMDT facilities.

4. **INFRASTRUCTURE SUPPORT IN PLACE** - Should have a space for DOT that can cater 10-20 patients; well ventilated with good infection control; office space for staff; with secure laboratory space and with constant power supply for optimal use of GeneXpert, and with secure storage area for second line drugs and supplies.
5. **POST PROJECT SUSTAINABILITY** – The capacity of the facility to absorb the project hired staff and continue PMDT implementation past the project life should be considered.

Once potential treatment facilities are identified, an advocacy meeting shall be conducted within the region in coordination with the NTP and the Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP), the principal recipient of the Global fund grant. All regions are encouraged to do the advocacy meeting before the end of June 2014. The objective of this activity is to orient potential PMDT facilities on the process of establishing a facility, roles and responsibilities of the different TB stakeholders, and the support that The Global Fund can provide through PBSP. By the end of the meeting, all interested facilities will be asked to sign a letter of commitment. A site visit will be conducted to the interested facilities, and negotiations for the Memorandum of Agreement will be initiated. Facilities will identify and recommend project staff for hiring and organic staff for PMDT training. Drugs, supplies, and logistics shall also be prepared prior to the start of PMDT operations in the facility.

For any inquiries, please contact Dr. Ramon P. Basilio, PMDT Specialist, National TB Control Program at 023105713 or at [monbasilio@gmail.com](mailto:monbasilio@gmail.com)

Please be guided accordingly.