



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

DEPARTMENT MEMORANDUM

No. 2014 - 0283

FOR : ALL DIRECTORS OF DOH REGIONAL OFFICES (RO) AND SECRETARY OF HEALTH OF AUTONOMOUS REGION FOR MUSLIM MINDANAO (ARMM)

SUBJECT : Reiteration on the Implementation of Xpert MTB/RIF under the revised NTP Manual of Procedures (MOP), 5th ed.

DATE : 9 September 2014

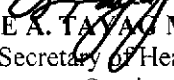
The revised Manual of Procedures (MOP) for NTP, 5th ed., recommends Xpert MTB/RIF as a diagnostic tool for TB in smear negative patients with chest X-ray findings, TB in children, selected types of extra-pulmonary TB, drug-resistant TB and PLHIV with signs and symptoms of TB. *Department Memorandum 2014-0218 ('Implementation of Xpert MTB/RIF under the revised NTP-MOP')* was issued in July 2014 to ensure smooth implementation of Xpert MTB/RIF as prescribed by the revised MOP and optimize consumption of available cartridge resources. In view thereof, the following guidelines are emphasized and reiterated:

- 1) Xpert MTB/RIF shall be used in the diagnosis among **presumptive DR-TB, PLHIV with signs and symptoms of TB, children with presumptive TB, extrapulmonary and smear negative patients with chest X-ray findings** suggestive of TB following the casefinding algorithm of the revised MOP. Intake of patients for screening shall be limited to the catchment areas of the health unit/center where the Xpert site is situated, except for PLHIV and presumptive DR-TB cases, until further notice.
- 2) **Repeat test for diagnosis** is only allowed if previous results turned out to be *indeterminate/error or MTB detected Rif resistance indeterminate*.
- 3) Xpert MTB/RIF **shall not be used for follow-up** at any point during the course of patient's treatment.

This memorandum hereby directs all RO and ARMM NTP coordinators to advise **all DOTS and PMDT facilities** in their respective jurisdiction to adhere accordingly as above.

For strict compliance.

By Authority of the Secretary of Health:


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