



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

DEPARTMENT MEMORANDUM

No. 2014 - 0302

FOR : DIRECTORS OF REGIONS 3, 4A, 6, 7, 11 AND NCR,
DIRECTORS/MEDICAL CENTER CHIEFS/HEADS OF EAST
AVENUE MEDICAL CENTER, NATIONAL CHILDREN'S
HOSPITAL, PHILIPPINE ORTHOPEDIC CENTER, AND HEAD
OF NATIONAL TB REFERENCE LABORATORY

FROM : ENRIQUE A. *EATAYG* TAYAG, MD, FPSMID, PHSAE, CESO III
Assistant Secretary of Health
Head, Support Service Delivery Technical Cluster II

SUBJECT : Quarterly Monitoring of TB Xpert Project Implementation in
UNITAID sites

DATE : 15 September 2014

UNITAID is a global health initiative providing support for the provision of new diagnostics and medicines for the prevention of HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria in developing countries. The Xpert MTB/RIF is a new rapid diagnostic technology, endorsed by the World Health Organization (WHO), that can detect Mycobacterium tuberculosis, including resistant strains, within a span of two hours. The revised MOP recommends this tool in the diagnosis of 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. This technology is expected to hasten and enhance casefinding activities for National TB Control Program (NTP) and significantly reduce turn-around time from diagnosis to treatment initiation.

In line with NTP's commitment to continuously strengthen TB Xpert implementation as part of national scale-up and as part of its commitment to WHO and UNITAID, **quarterly joint monitoring with NTP, National TB Reference Laboratory (NTRL) and respective DOH-Regional Offices will be conducted every first to second week of the first month of each quarter** to monitor the progress of implementation at each facility. The concerned facilities are advised to prepare their quarterly reports prior to the team's visit to allow smooth monitoring process.

This memorandum hereby directs all regional NTP coordinators to inform the following **DOTS and laboratory facilities** on the quarterly monitoring schedule.

RO	Facility
Central Luzon (III)	1. San Fernando City Health Office
CALABARZON (IV-A)	2. Santa Rosa City Health Office
Western Visayas (VI)	3. Bacolod City Health Office
Central Visayas (VII)	4. Cebu City Health Office
Davao (XI)	5. Davao Chest Center
National Capital Region (NCR)	6. East Avenue Medical Center 7. National Children's Hospital 8. Philippine Orthopedic Center 9. Marikina City Health Office 10. Quezon City Jail