



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

DEPARTMENT MEMORANDUM

No. 2015 - 0025

FOR : DOH REGIONAL DIRECTORS - NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION,
REGION IV-A, REGION V, REGION VI, REGION VII, REGION
X AND REGION XI

FROM : *Maell Ubial*
PAULYN JEAN B. ROSELL – UBIAL, MD, MPH, CESO II
Assistant Secretary of Health
Office of the Technical Services

SUBJECT : Implementation of “Feasibility, effectiveness, and safety of 9-month
treatment regimen for multidrug-resistant tuberculosis in the
Philippines” operational research

DATE : 20 January 2015

The National Tuberculosis Control Program of the Department of Health, in collaboration with the Lung Center of the Philippines – National Center for Pulmonary Research will conduct an operational research entitled “**Feasibility, effectiveness, and safety of 9-month treatment regimen for multidrug-resistant tuberculosis in the Philippines**”. This proposed operational research (OR) will determine the country-specific operational feasibility, and to measure the effectiveness and safety, of a shorter, 9-month MDR treatment regimen in the Philippines. This is an initiative to address the challenge of high lost to ff-up / defaulter rate among drug resistant TB cases.

The operational research will be implemented in 5 treatment facilities in the first year with an additional 4 facilities in the second year. The initial 5 are: (1) **Lung Center of the Philippines – National Center for Pulmonary Research**, (2) **Dr. Jose. N. Rodriguez Memorial Hospital**, (3) **San Lazaro Hospital**, (4) **Xavier University Community Health Care Center** and (5) **Western Visayas Medical Center**. The succeeding four facilities to follow in the second year are (6) **Sorsogon Medical Mission Group Hospital and Health Services Cooperative**, (7) **Batangas Medical Center**, (8) **Eversley Childs Sanitarium** and (9) **Southern Philippines Medical Center**. The study will enroll a total of 870 patients for 2 years. These facilities were selected based on a) a treatment center providing services to MDR-TB patients and is operational for at least 2 years, (b) with representation from the 3 big islands – Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao, (c) with established linkage with TB laboratories and other diagnostic centers, (d) with representation from the public and private MDR-TB service providers, and (e) cooperation from the hospital management.

The **National Ethics Committee, PCHRD-DOST** has given ethical clearance for the research last December 9, 2014. The **World Health Organization** has also given its technical approval on the protocol last December 10, 2014. Training for the first 5 implementing sites will be conducted on Jan 21-23, 2015, and proposed start date of enrollment will be on March 1, 2015

Relative to this, identified treatment facilities are requested to participate in this landmark study and research. For any inquiries, questions or if there are other requirements from your facility for the conduct of this study, please contact Dr. Vivian S. Lofranco, Principal Investigator, Lung Center of the Philippines, National Center for Pulmonary Research at 029246101 loc 308 or 029218945 or at email address: vivslofranco5000@gmail.com