



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

DEPARTMENT MEMORANDUM
No. 2015 - 0100

10 April 2015

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

SUBJECT : Advisory on the distribution of Ziehl-Neelsen staining kits expiring in 2015

The National TB Control Program (NTP) has received reports regarding surplus of TB staining kits (Ziehl-Neelsen reagents), which are expiring within this year, in some regions. Notably, the commodities were purchased by DOH in 2012. In response to this concern and in view of preventing possible wastage, NTP is recommending to utilize the near-expiring TB staining kits as follows:

- 1) Distribute supply of TB staining kits to all public hospitals, including provincial/city/district/municipal hospitals, Public-Private Mix DOTS (PPMD) facilities or any other public or private facilities engaged in performing Direct Sputum Smear Microscopy for NTP.
- 2) Encourage DOTS and PMDT facilities to do intensified casefinding among contacts of identified drug susceptible and drug resistant TB cases.
- 3) Conduct active casefinding activities in communities with low case detection rate (CDR).
- 4) Conduct advocacy activities through active casefinding (eg mass screening, medical missions, etc), in conjunction with NTP's current initiatives involving special populations such as jails, workplace, elderly, diabetes clinics etc, where feasible.
- 5) Any other measures or activities as deemed feasible by the regional NTP coordinators.

In view thereof, all regional and ARMM NTP coordinators are advised to manage accordingly per above.

For your guidance.

By Authority of the Secretary of Health:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Vicente Y. Belizario, Jr.", is written over a horizontal line.

VICENTE Y. BELIZARIO, JR, MD, MTM&H
Undersecretary of Health
Office of Technical Services