



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

June 7, 2017

DEPARTMENT MEMORANDUM

No. 2017- 0250

FOR: SECRETARY OF HEALTH OF AUTONOMOUS REGION IN MUSLIM MINDANAO, ALL DOH REGIONAL DIRECTORS, AND CHIEFS OF MEDICAL CENTERS/HOSPITALS WITH PMDT TREATMENT FACILITY

SUBJECT: Provision of Patient-centered Supervised Treatment for Drug-resistant Tuberculosis

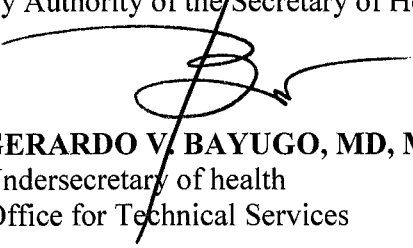
Drug-resistant TB remains a major public health concern. It poses a threat to the efforts of the National TB Program (NTP) in eliminating TB in the country. One of the major concerns in the Programmatic Management of Drug-resistant TB (PMDT) is the low treatment success rate (TSR). In 2013 cohort, TSR is only 54%; although this is above the global TSR, this is still unacceptable because 12% of patients died and 31% were lost to follow-up.

To improve treatment outcomes of patient enrolled under PMDT, the program shall take necessary steps to provide patient-centered services. As stated in the Administrative Order 2016-0040 "*Revised Policies and Guidelines on the Implementation of the Programmatic Management of Drug-Resistant TB (PMDT)*", DR-TB patients shall be allowed to choose where to receive treatment among the PMDT treatment facilities including option for community-based care. Supervised treatment shall be carried out in settings that are accessible and acceptable to the patient.

To operationalize the provision of patient-centered supervised treatment, the following strategies shall be implemented: 1) make the clinic hours in the PMDT treatment facility flexible; 2) decentralize patients to the nearest health facility; and 3) engage treatment partners such as, but not limited to, staff of the health center/barangay health station, health care workers who are part of the DOH Deployment programs, barangay health workers, community health teams, cured TB patients, physicians or nurse in the company/school clinic, or volunteer health worker in the community or in the barangay where the patient is residing.

For strict compliance.

By Authority of the Secretary of Health:


GERARDO V. BAYUGO, MD, MPH, CESO III
Undersecretary of health
Office for Technical Services