



Republic of the Philippines  
Department of Health  
**OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY**

31 August 2017

**DEPARTMENT MEMORANDUM**

No. 2017- 0372

**TO: DIRECTOR OF DOH NATIONAL CAPITAL REGIONAL OFFICE; EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS OF LUNG CENTER OF THE PHILIPPINES, AND PHILIPPINE CHILDREN'S MEDICAL CENTER; AND CHIEFS OF MEDICAL CENTER OF EAST AVENUE MEDICAL CENTER, NATIONAL CENTER FOR MENTAL HEALTH, NATIONAL CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL, AND PHILIPPINE ORTHOPEDIC CENTER**

**SUBJECT: Conduct of an Assessment on the Quality of TB Diagnosis in the National Capital Region**

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World Health Organization (WHO) Country Office in the Philippines, in collaboration with the National Tuberculosis Control Program (NTP) of the Disease Prevention and Control Bureau (DPCB), will be conducting an assessment on the quality of TB diagnosis in the National Capital Region (NCR). In the 2015 NTP Report, NCR contributed the largest portion of TB cases (15%) with 72% classified as clinically-diagnosed and 28% as bacteriologically-confirmed. Previous self-report studies assessing private practitioners in the Philippines have found that usage of sputum as a routine test is not common, with estimates of 3% in one study (Zagala AF., and Benedicto J., 2016) and 13% in another (Auer C., et al., 2006). The quality of TB diagnosis among physicians in public practice in the Philippines has not been explored. Hence, this assessment will explore the reasons for the high rates of clinically-diagnosed cases relative to bacteriologically-confirmed cases among physicians in public practice in the NCR.

Questionnaires will be administered to 115 Directly Observed Treatment Short-course (DOTS) facilities by random sampling with probability proportional to the case load in each facility. In each facility, the physician/s who is/are the main provider of TB services will be the respondents. The first two pages of the questionnaire will be self-administered whereas the rest of the survey will be administered by trained interviewers to prevent the disclosing of answers, thus limiting bias. The questionnaire includes vignettes which will present case studies, assessing the practice of physicians in TB diagnosis. In addition, six recent patients' treatment cards, of recently 3 bacteriologically-confirmed cases and 3 clinically-diagnosed cases will be reviewed. Lastly, the physician/s will be asked about barriers to accessing diagnostic care for her/his patients and his/her suggestions for improvements. The interview should take less than an hour. Names will be redacted to maintain privacy of the interviewee and the facility.

The following are the roles and responsibilities of each office:

**A. DOH-DPCB-NTP Management Office**

1. Coordinate the conduct of the assessment.
2. Provide the list of DOTS facilities in NCR for randomization.
3. Provide technical comments on the assessment protocol and final report.

**B. DOH National Capital Regional Office**

1. Provide WHO the following:
  - a. names and contact information of the City NTP Coordinators;
  - b. names of TB physicians of the selected sites; and
  - c. contact information and complete address of the selected sites.
2. Coordinate the conduct of the assessment in all concerned LGUs:
  - a. City Health Office to:
    - i. organize the interviews, including place and time, in consultation with the WHO, the interviewees and authorities of the selected facilities.
    - ii. ensure availability of the main physician or representative of the identified site during the conduct of actual interview.
  - b. Randomized DOTS Facilities to:
    - i. provide the necessary patient records regarding diagnosis of recent TB patients.
    - ii. provide appropriate space for the conduct of the interview.
    - iii. seek the appointment of the main physician for the interviews.

**C. DOH and Specialty Hospital**


1. Provide necessary assistance; and
2. Ensure the availability of the physician

Field interview will start immediately. The randomly selected facility is attached as Annex A.

For further inquiries and concern, please contact any of the following:

- Ms. Donna Mae Gaviola, NTP MO M&E Coordinator – [ntp.mne@gmail.com](mailto:ntp.mne@gmail.com)
- Mr. Mark Rolin Bartolome, NTP MO Research Associate - (02) 230-9626
- Dr. Rajendra Yadav, WHO Medical Officer - [yadavr@who.int](mailto:yadavr@who.int)

For strict compliance.

  
PAULYN JEAN B. ROSELL-UBIAL, MD, MPH, CESO II  
Secretary of Health

**Identified Sites for Interview**

Team 1	<p>(Manila)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• San Nicolas Health Center</li> <li>• San Nicolas Health Center</li> <li>• San Nicolas Health Center</li> <li>• San Nicolas Health Center</li> <li>• Meisic Health Center</li> </ul>	<p>(Makati)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Army General Hospital TB DOTS Clinic</li> <li>• Rizal Health Center</li> <li>• Comembo Health Center</li> </ul>	<p>(Mandaluyong)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Saniboy Health Center</li> <li>• National Center For Mental Health</li> <li>• National Center For Mental Health</li> <li>• Pleasant Hills Health Center (E.Rodriguez)</li> <li>• I. Lopez Health Center</li> </ul>	<p>(Pasay)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Doña Marta Health Center</li> <li>• Doña Marta Health Center</li> <li>• Malibay Health Center</li> <li>• San Pablo Health Center</li> <li>• Villamor Health Center</li> </ul>	<p>(Quezon)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Children's Hospital</li> <li>• San Antonio Health Center</li> <li>• Toro Hills Health Center</li> <li>• M.H. Pedro Health Center</li> </ul>			<p>(Quezon)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lung Center of the Philippines</li> <li>• Lung Center of the Philippines</li> <li>• Lung Center of the Philippines</li> <li>• V. Luna Medical Center</li> <li>• Holy Spirit Health Center</li> </ul>
Team 2	<p>(Tondo)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tondo Foreshore Health Center Lying In</li> <li>• Bo. Magsaysay Health Center</li> <li>• Bo. Magsaysay Health Center</li> <li>• Canossa Health Services</li> </ul>	<p>(Pasig)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nagpayong Health Center</li> <li>• Pinagbuhatan Puericulture Center</li> <li>• Rosario Health Center</li> <li>• Santolan Health Center</li> <li>• Karangalan Health Center</li> </ul>	<p>(Valenzuela)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fatima University Medical Center-DOTS</li> <li>• Fatima University Medical Center-DOTS</li> <li>• Gen. T. De Leon I Health Center</li> <li>• Tugatog Health Center</li> <li>• Mapulang Lupa Health Center</li> </ul>	<p>(Paranaque)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• San Isidro Health Center</li> <li>• San Antonio Health Center</li> <li>• Moonwalk Health Center -- PMDT STC</li> <li>• Vitalez Health Center</li> </ul>	<p>(Quezon City)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Payatas Orione Health Center</li> <li>• Payatas B Health Center</li> <li>• Lupang Pangako Health Center</li> <li>• Batasan Hills Super Health Center</li> </ul>	<p>(Quezon City)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bagbag Health Center</li> <li>• NGC Health Center</li> <li>• North Fairview Health Center</li> <li>• E. Garcia Health Center</li> </ul>	<p>(Marikana)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Malanday Health Center</li> <li>• Malanday Health Center</li> </ul>	

	<p>(Tondo, Quiapo, Sampaloc)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bo. Obrero Health Center</li> <li>• Palomar Health Center</li> <li>• D. Belmonte Health Center</li> <li>• A. Mabini Health Center</li> </ul>	<p>(Caloocan)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• E. Rodriguez Health Center</li> <li>• Bagong Silang Ph 7 Health Center</li> <li>• Julian Felipe Health Center</li> <li>• Barangay 18 Health Center</li> </ul>	<p>(Valenzuela)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dalandanan Health Center</li> <li>• Dalandanan Health Center</li> <li>• Lingunan Health Center</li> <li>• Coloong Health Center</li> <li>• Manotoc Health Center</li> </ul>	<p>(Taguig)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Western Bicutan Health Center</li> <li>• New Lower Bicutan Health Center</li> <li>• Bagumbayan Health Center</li> <li>• Sitio Imelda Health Center</li> <li>• Sitio Imelda Health Center</li> </ul>	<p>(Quezon City)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commonwealth Health Center</li> <li>• Krus Na Ligas Health Center</li> <li>• East Avenue Medical Center – DOTS</li> <li>• East Avenue Medical Center - DOTS</li> </ul>	<p>(Quezon City)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Doña Nicasia Health Center</li> <li>• San Francisco Health Center</li> <li>• Philippine Orthopedic Center – DOTS</li> <li>• Gen. Roxas Health Center</li> </ul>	<p>(Muntinlupa)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New Bilibid Prison Hospital</li> <li>• New Bilibid Prison Hospital</li> <li>• New Bilibid Prison Hospital</li> <li>• Cupang Health Center</li> <li>• Bayanan Main Health Center</li> </ul>	
Team 3	<p>(Tondo, Malabon)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Juan Posadas Health Center</li> <li>• Smokey Mountain Health Center</li> <li>• San Agustin Health Center</li> <li>• Concepcion Health Center</li> </ul>	<p>(Caloocan, Marikana)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• German Doctors For Dev. Countries Health Center</li> <li>• Calabanan Health Center</li> <li>• Malanday Health Center</li> <li>• Malanday Health Center</li> </ul>	<p>(Valenzuela, Caloocan)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Serrano Health Center</li> <li>• Bagong Silang Ph 1 Health Center</li> <li>• Malaria Health Center</li> <li>• 149 Lying-In and Health Center</li> </ul>	<p>(Taguig, Las Pinas)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DPWH Health Center</li> <li>• Wawa Health Center</li> <li>• TS Cruz Health Center</li> <li>• Elias Aldana Health Center – DOTS</li> <li>• Elias Aldana Health Center – PMDT STC</li> </ul>	<p>(Quezon City)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bagong Pag-asa Health Center</li> <li>• Banlat Health Center</li> <li>• Apolonio Samson Health Center</li> <li>• Malingaya Health Center</li> </ul>	<p>(Quezon City, San Juan)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kamuning Health Center</li> <li>• Paltok Health Center</li> <li>• Veterans Health Center</li> <li>• Batis Health Center</li> </ul>	<p>(Navotas)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tumana Health Center</li> <li>• Kaunlaran Village Health Center</li> <li>• Tumana Health Center – PMDT STC</li> <li>• Navotas City Jail</li> </ul>	
Team 4								