



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

April 3, 2017

DEPARTMENT MEMORANDUM

No. 2017 - 0152

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

SUBJECT: Cancellation of Drug Holiday during Treatment of Drug-resistant TB

Since 2008, the World Health Organization (WHO) recommends that treatment for Drug-resistant TB (DR-TB) should be administered daily. This recommendation is very crucial as the Program adopts the shorter treatment regimen as the standard regimen for Rifampicin-resistant/Multi Drug-resistant TB (RR/MDR-TB). Based on the observational studies conducted from other countries, the shorter treatment regimen for RR/MDR-TB has been proven very effective with treatment success rate of more than 80%, failure rate of 3%, and relapse rate of less than 1% in settings where DR-TB treatment was provided daily. Further, for the conventional treatment regimen of DR-TB, there is no available information with regard to the effectiveness of intermittent dosing vs daily treatment.

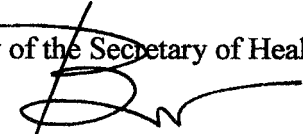
In this regard, all PMDT treatment facilities are instructed to provide supervised treatment daily (seven days a week) to all enrolled DR-TB cases starting April 1, 2017. No drug holiday shall be allowed unless medically indicated.

Moreover, evaluation of patients for shifting to continuation phase and for final outcome shall be based on the following recommendation cut-off regardless of number of doses taken:

| Classification of DR-TB Cases | Regimen | Intensive Phase (IP) | Continuation Phase (CP) | Total Treatment Duration |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| RR/ DR-TB | Standard Regimen Drug-resistant (SRDR) | About 8 months | 12 months | 20 months |
| RR/MDR-TB | Standard Short Treatment Regimen (SSTR) under Operational Research and Program Conditions | 4 months, may be extended to 6 months | 5 months | 9-11 months, may be extended up to 12 months in some instances |
| XDR | Individualized Treatment Regimen | 24 months (if with injectable agent, IP is about 8 months) | | 24 months |
| Other DR-TB | Mono or Poly-resistant TB Regimen | 6-18 months | | 6-18 months |

For compliance.

By Authority of the Secretary of Health:


GERARDO V. BAYUGO, MD, MPH CESO III
Undersecretary of Health
Office for Technical Service