



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

May 29, 2017

**DEPARTMENT MEMORANDUM**

No. 2017 - 0238

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

**SUBJECT: Implementation of Standard Short Treatment Regimen (SSTR) and Use of Novel Anti-TB Drugs for Drug-resistant TB Patients**

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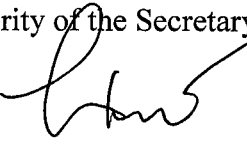
One of the most significant developments in the management of drug-resistant tuberculosis is the introduction of shorter treatment regimen. This has been introduced in the country under operational research (OR) on July 1, 2015 in ten selected Programmatic Management of Drug-Resistant Tuberculosis (PMDT) treatment facilities. The enrollment of patients under OR has ended last December 31, 2016. Preliminary analysis of data from the study showed promising result of treatment outcomes. Hence, the National TB Control Program (NTP) adopted the shorter treatment regimen as the standard regimen for Rifampicin-Resistant/Multi Drug-Resistant Tuberculosis (RR/MDR-TB) starting January 1, 2017.

The implementation of SSTR shall be done in a phased manner. All RR/MDR-TB detected in the 10 study sites shall be initiated on Standard Short Treatment Regimen (SSTR), if eligible. For other PMDT treatment facilities, the health staff shall be trained on the use of SSTR and new anti-TB drugs. In this regard, all trained PMDT treatment facilities are instructed to implement the SSTR and use the new anti-TB drugs right after the training or utmost a month after the training.

Furthermore, the implementation of SSTR and use of new anti-TB drugs shall not limit the decentralization of supervised treatment to any health facility or even to the community to address the high lost to follow-up of DR-TB cases.

For compliance.

By Authority of the Secretary of Health:

  
**GERARDO V. BAYUGO, MD, MPH, CESO III**  
Undersecretary of Health