

Group Convenes for the Finalization of the Guidelines on TB Mass Screening (TBMS) in Jails and Prisons



The group from various agencies who provided inputs in the finalization of the Guidelines in TBMS in Jails and Prisons

A meeting on the finalization of the guidelines on TBMS in jails and prisons was done last January 6, 2017 at DOH Central Office – Tayuman. The activity was participated by key stakeholders from International Cooperation for Red Cross (ICRC), MiMaRoPa Regional Health Office, Manila Health Department, Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP), Innovations and Multisectoral Partnerships to Achieve Control of Tuberculosis (IMPACT), Technical Assistance Support to Countries (TASC) and Disease Prevention and Control Bureau (DPCB).

Dr. Anna Marie Celina Garfin (NTP Manager - DPCB) facilitated the discussion. The group provided valuable inputs in the draft guidelines. Some of the agreements were placing of annexes to shorten certain parts like the background and rationale; to highlight the significance of TBMS with strong evidence; TB Mass Screening should not be a replacement to routine screenings (entry, symptoms surveillance and self-referrals; enhancement of the reporting system of BJMP/ Prisons; inclusion of the good practices such as the use of biometrics, prison code and carpeta as a means of verification in identifying inmates to avoid switching and proxy during TBMS; changes in the computation of logistics and harmonization of the logistic tool.

Future steps were enumerated which includes the circulation of the revised guidelines by January 9, 2017; IMPACT to aid editing the document while NTP Management Office to route the guidelines to DOH offices. The final output will be in a booklet form which will be disseminated along with the Administrative Order by BJMP/BuCor down to their respective detention facilities as well as from Central office to Regional DOH offices and regional offices down to respective LGUs.



Dr. Garfin (DPCB) awarding the certificate of appreciation to Dr. Fatah Labib (Health Manager of International Committee of Red Cross) for sharing his expertise in the implementation of TB Program in jails and prisons