

Department Of AIDS Control (DAC)
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, GOI
Chandralok Building, 36 - Janpath, New Delhi – 110001

Minutes of meeting of National Technical Working Group on TB/HIV collaborative activities (NTWG) at the Department of AIDS Control, New Delhi on 22nd of January 2014

The meeting of National Technical Working Group (NTWG) on TB/ HIV was convened at Department of AIDS Control (DAC) on 22nd of January 2014 under Chairmanship of Dr. Ashok Kumar, Deputy Director General (BSD), Department of AIDS Control, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare/ GOI. Dr. R. S. Gupta, Deputy Director General, Central TB Division, Directorate General of Health Services, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare/GOI also participated in the meeting. The chairman welcomed all participants and briefed the members of NTWG regarding the agenda placed for consideration.

List of participants is enclosed as Annexure-I and Agenda for the meeting as Annexure-II

Following were the issues discussed and decisions taken by NTWG:

1. Action taken and decisions on relevant issues on agenda points of last NTWG meeting held on 14/8/2013: Dr. Rajesh Deshmukh, Program officer HIV/TB at DAC presented the action taken based on the recommendations of NTWG meeting held on 14 Aug 2013 along with the pending action points. The NTWG discussed these issues and made following recommendations:

1.1. Pending issue of sensitization of NACP staff (MOs/Counsellors/Staff Nurse) at all the ART Centres, Link ART Centres in Programmatic management of Drug resistant TB guidelines and on use of Xpert MTB-Rif under RNTCP. Dr. Srikant Tripathy Director JALMA also raised the issue to sensitization of MOs in diagnosing extra pulmonary TB.

Recommendation of NTWG: It was recommended that the guidance document on use of Xpert MTB-Rif can be circulated to all NACP staff (MOs/Counsellors/Staff Nurse) by DAC. It was also suggested to include diagnosis of extra pulmonary TB and use of Xpert MTB-Rif

in one day induction training and refresher training conducted by CST division of DAC. A letter from DDG CST to all concerned can be sent and the laminated wall material regarding diagnosis of extra pulmonary TB, Xpert MTB Rif and presumptive MDRTB case criteria can be circulated to ART centers. It was also suggested that a video learning clip can be developed by RNTCP incorporating diagnosis of extra pulmonary TB and use of Xpert MTB-Rif.

1.2. Scale-up of Provider Initiated HIV testing and Counselling (PITC) among presumptive TB cases

Recommendation of NTWG: It was recommended to put in place monitoring mechanism for those states where PITC among presumptive TB cases has been initiated. In addition to currently implementing states, the State of Gujarat and Maharashtra would initiate the PITC among presumptive TB cases from next month. It was suggested that DAC in coordination with CTD may circulate the PITC guidelines to the states implementing PITC among presumptive TB cases.

1.3. Isoniazid Preventive Therapy (IPT) Strategy for prevention of TB among PLHIV: The NTWG has endorsed the Isoniazid Preventive Therapy (IPT) implementation plan in last meeting held on 14/8/13 which was to be implemented in early 2014. Dr. Sachdeva informed that, with delay in procurement of INH 300mg and INH 100 mg at central level, the CTD has instructed states to procure it locally based on requirement. **Recommendation of NTWG:** The IPT strategy implementation would be prioritized in states with sufficient stocks of INH.

1.4. Joint review of low performing state in TB/HIV activities: Joint National review was undertaken in the National STO-Consultants meeting of the RNTCP held from 16-18 Sept 2013. Joint visit to States of Delhi, Madhya Pradesh were conducted.

Recommendation of NTWG: Joint National HIV-TB review meeting can be conducted once every year at national level.

2. Preliminary findings from IPT Study by NIRT: Dr. Soumya Swaminathan (Director NIRT) updated the NTWG members regarding the Preliminary findings from IPT Study by NIRT.

Recommendation of NTWG: It was conveyed to NIRT that the first draft of findings of NIRT from Phase I of the IPT study may be submitted to DAC, BSD and NTWG members by NIRT along with recommendations.

Decision: It was decided by NTWG members that Phase II of the study to be continued.

3. Proposal for supporting ART centers for implementation of 3 'I's (i.e. ICF at ART centre, Infection control and INH preventive therapy).

Dr. A N Sreenivas NPO / WHO, India, presented the proposal for supporting the ART Centers for implementation of 3 'I's (Intensified Case Finding (ICF), Isoniazid Preventive Therapy (IPT), and Infection Control for Tuberculosis (IC)). It was mentioned that these activities will be implemented in selected high workload ART centers in India. Considering the importance of early diagnosis of the TB and prevention of TB among the PLHIV it was suggested to ART division of DAC to identify the ART centers where these activities will be implemented.

Recommendation: It was conveyed to NPO TB WHO, India that the detail proposal be sent to NTWG members within a week and comments can be invited from the NTWG members. It was conveyed to CST division, DAC and NPO ART to prioritize ART centers and send the names of the ART centers to NPO TB WHO, India for including the ART centers for linkage with CBNAAT.

Decision: Proposal was approved in principal by NTWG members and a subgroup was formed comprising of following members:

1. Dr. A. S. Rathore (DDG CST)
2. Dr. K. S. Sachdeva (ADDG TB)
3. Dr. Avi Kumar Bansal (Scientist 'D' JALMA ICMR)

It was decided that the subgroup will send comments incorporating comments from NTWG members and send to Dr. Sreenivas, NPO TB WHO by 5th February, 2014, who will subsequently send the revised proposal to Chairman NTWG by 12th February, 2014 after receiving the feedback from the above mentioned subgroup for further submission to DAC/GOI.

4. Overview of WHO ART Guidelines 2013: Dr. B.B Rewari NPO ART presented an overview of WHO ART guidelines 2013. Ms Janhabi Goswami INP+ raised an issue regarding Paediatric care among PLHIV, for improving knowledge about Pediatric HIV TB

care among ART MOs, Dr. B. B. Rewari mentioned that this part is already existing in two days pediatric HIV care induction training.

5. Paediatric HIV-TB care induction training: Dr. Rewari suggested that ART medical officer should do a 5 key topics presentation for pediatric HIV care. This is part of already existing 2 days pediatric care induction training. A refresher training will be conducted for the HIV care among pediatric population under the same induction training program.

The issue regarding the training of Lab Technicians in RNTCP Sputum Smear Microscopy and Multi-Tasking was raised by Dr. Asha Hegde JD (MSACS) for which it was suggested the communication regarding the same will be conveyed to the SACS from DAC.

6. Joint visits and reviews of states by DAC and RNTCP: Dr. Amar mentioned the finding and observations of joint field visit by DAC and RNTCP representatives to Delhi and MP. He highlighted the issue of low referral rates from ART to RNTCP. He mentioned that there is a need of having joint State review meeting to enhance the referral rates of ART to RNTCP.

The following action points emerged during the NTWG meeting:

1. The guidance document on use of Xpert MTB-Rif can be circulated to all NACP staff (MOs/Counsellors/Staff Nurse) by DAC.
2. Diagnosis of extra pulmonary TB and use of Xpert MTB-Rif may be included in one day induction training and refresher training conducted by CST division of DAC. A letter from DDG CST to all concerned can be sent and the laminated wall material regarding diagnosis of extra pulmonary TB, Xpert MTB RIF and presumptive MDRTB case criteria can be circulated to ART centers.
3. It was also suggested that a video learning clip may be developed by RNTCP incorporating diagnosis of extra pulmonary TB and use of Xpert MTB-Rif.
4. The DAC in coordination with CTD may circulate the PITC guidelines to the states implementing PITC among presumptive TB cases.
5. IPT Strategy implementation may be started by the states with sufficient stock of INH.
6. Joint national HIV-TB review meetings can be conducted once every year at national level.

- 7.** NIRT may submit the first draft of findings of NIRT from Phase I of the IPT study to DAC, BSD and NTWG members by NIRT along with recommendations.
- 8.** NTWG decided that Phase II of the IPT study by NIRT may be continued.
- 9.** NPO TB WHO can send the detail proposal for supporting ART centers for implementation of 3 'I's (i.e. ICF at ART centre, Infection control and INH preventive therapy) to NTWG members within a week and comments are invited from the NTWG members.
- 10.** The CST division, DAC and NPO ART may prioritize ART centers and send the names of the ART centers to NPO WHO for including the ART centers for linkage with CBNAAT.
- 11.** Proposal for supporting ART centers for implementation of 3 'I's (i.e. ICF at ART centre, Infection control and INH preventive therapy) was approved in principal by NTWG members and a subgroup was formed.
- 12.** The subgroup will send comments (incorporating comments from NTWG members) and send to Dr. Sreenivas, NPO TB WHO within 2 working weeks, who will subsequently send the revised proposal for supporting ART centers for implementation of 3 'I's (i.e. ICF at ART centre, Infection control and INH preventive therapy) to Chairman NTWG in 1 working week after receiving the feedback from subgroup for further submission to Secretary DAC.

List of participants in NTWG meeting held on 22/01/2014

1. Dr. Ashok Kumar, Deputy Director General, Basic Services Division, Department of AIDS Control, MOHFW / GOI, Chandralok Building, 36-Janpath, New Delhi-110001
2. Dr. R. S. Gupta, Deputy Director General (TB), Dte. GHS, MOHFW / GOI, Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi 110108
3. Dr. A. S. Rathore Deputy Director General, Care, Support and Treatment Division, Department of AIDS Control, MOHFW / GOI, Chandralok Building, 36-Janpath, New Delhi-110001
4. Dr. Soumya Swaminathan, Director, National Institute of Research in TB (ICMR), Chetput, Chennai 600031
5. Dr. Srikanth. Tripathy, Director, National JALMA Institute for Leprosy and Other Mycobacterial Diseases (ICMR) P.O BOX 101, Dr. M. Miyazaki Marg, Tajganj, Agra - 282001, Uttar Pradesh
6. Dr. K. S. Sachdeva, Additional Director General (TB), Dte. GHS, MOHFW / GOI, Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi 110108
7. Dr. B. B. Rewari, National Program Officer (ART) DAC/MOHFW / GOI, Chandralok Building, 36-Janpath, New Delhi-110001
8. Dr. AN Sreenivas, National Professional Officer (TB), WHO India, R K Khanna Tennis Stadium, Safdarjung Enclave, New Delhi 110029
9. Dr. Avi Kumar Bansal, Scientist 'D', National JALMA Institute for Leprosy and Other Mycobacterial Diseases (ICMR) P.O BOX 101, Dr. M. Miyazaki Marg, Tajganj, Agra - 282001, Uttar Pradesh
10. Dr. Asha Hegde, Joint Director, In-charge for TB-HIV activities, (nominated by DAC): Maharashtra State AIDS Control Society, AckWorth Leprosy Compound Hospital, Rafi Ahmed Kidwai Marg, Wadala (West), Mumbai Maharashtra 400031.
11. Ms Janhabi Goswami, Civil Society organisation Representative (HIV), President, Indian Network for Positive People (INP+) Flat No 10, 3rd Floor, Kash Towers, New no:121, old No:94, South West Boag Road, T. Nagar, Chennai 600017
12. Dr. Suresh Shastri, Sr. Specialist, Lady Willingdon State TB Training Centre , Sampangirama Nagar, Bangalore, (Karnataka)
13. Dr. M.D. Suryakanth TB Officer nominated by CTD (Karnataka) Office Of The Joint Director (Tb), Lady Willingdon State Tb Centre, 4Th Main Road, Sampangiramanagar, Bangalore - 560 027
14. Dr. Amar Shah, National Consultant (TB), Dte. GHS, MOHFW / GOI, Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi 110108
15. Dr. Rajesh Deshmukh, Program Officer (HIV-TB) DAC/ MOHFW/GOI, Chandralok Building, 36-Janpath, New Delhi-110001
16. Dr. Sumit Kumar Bansal, Technical Officer, (HIV-TB) DAC/ MOHFW/GOI, Chandralok Building, 36-Janpath, New Delhi-110001

Agenda

National Technical Working Group (NTWG) Meeting on HIV/TB Collaborative Activities Date: 22/01/2014 Time: 1.00pm Venue: Department of AIDS control ,Committee room,6th floor , Chandralok Building, 36-Janpath, New Delhi-110001		
Programme		
<i>Lunch 12:30- 13:30hrs</i>		
1.30pm- 1.45pm	Opening Remarks by Chairman	Dr. Ashok Kumar DDG BSD/DAC
1.45pm- 2.00 pm	Action taken and decisions on relevant issues on agenda points of last NTWG meeting held on 14/8/2013	Dr. Rajesh Deshmukh PO(HIV/TB)BSD/DAC
2.00pm- 2.30 pm	Preliminary findings from IPT Study by NIRT	Dr. Soumya Swaminathan, Director NIRT
2.30pm- 3.00pm	ICF at ART Centers and management of TB HIV co-infected patients to reduce mortality	Dr. AN Sreenivas NPO TB (WHO India)
3.00pm- 3.20pm	Overview of WHO ART Guidelines 2013	Dr. B B. Rewari NPO ART, (WHO)
3.20pm- 3.40pm	Presentation of Status of Program performance under HIV/TB and Observations of Joint Field Visits by DAC and CTD	Dr. K. S. Sachdeva ADDG (TB) CTD& Dr. Amar Shah (NC TB/HIV CTD)
3.40pm- 4.00pm	Closing Comments Adjournment	Dr. Ashok Kumar DDG BSD/DAC