

TB SERVICES ADVISORY #1

Emergency of COVID 19

25th March 2020

In the light of the National emergency-Out break COVID 19 the following advisory is issued for continuity of TB services

- 1- All precautionary measures for COVID 19 shall be followed by health care worker while rendering TB services to patients approaching the Health facilities and laboratories

I.FOR TB PATIENTS WHO REACH HEALTH FACILITIES FOR TB CARE

- 2- The **New DS-TB patient** who are able/visits the health facility for follow on completion of intensive phase shall be issued two months of Anti TB medicines (RH)
- 3- All **Retreatment DS-TB** patients cases who are able to/ visits the health facility on completion of intensive phase shall be issued 2 month Anti TB medicines (RHZE)
- 4- All **DR-TB patients** are able/visit PMDT for follow up shall be issued medicine for two months

II.FOR TB PATIENTS WHO FAIL TO REACH HEALTH FACILITIES FOR FOLLOW UP

- 5- All available options shall be explored to locate patient and ensure uninterrupted drug supply for **DS-TB & DR-TB treatment**. The following option may be explored to locate patients including but not limited to –
 - a. Enable existing staff including LHW,
 - b. Courier services including Pakistan Postal services
 - c. Special delivery services like Bykia, Uber etc or any local other arrangement
 - d. SR human resource network
- 6- The private providers shall be issued medicines according to their consumptions through PPM partners for two month.

III. MONITORING OF TB PATIENTS ON TREATMENT

- 7- For registered **DS and DRTB patient who are able to reach health facility** for follow up, where possible, shall be monitored for treatment response. AFB smear for DS-TB and culture for DR-TB as recommended in national guidelines
- 8- For registered **DRTB patients on intensive phase of treatment** , patients shall be contacted on phone and other possible measures to monitor the adverse reactions especially for 2nd line drugs
- 9- District TB Coordinators will be kept in loop for better coordination

IV. SOCIAL SUPPORT FOR DRTB PATIENTS

- 10- The social support shall be issued to all MDR patients and their supporter and physical attendance at the PMDT is waived off temporarily.

V. COVID-19 TESTING

- 11- WHO Pakistan in consultation with NTP is working to expand COVID testing by utilizing BSL 2 & 3 TB laboratories using RT-PCR testing for COVID 19 . (POCT Equipment and KITS will be supplied by WHO).

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