

Minutes of the National Technical Working group (TWG) for TB/HIV held on 25th August, 2007

A meeting of National TWG for TB/HIV was held on the 25th August, 2007, at NACO. The meeting was attended by:

1. Dr. L.S.Chauhan, DDG (TB)
2. Dr Ajay Khera, JD, NACO
3. Dr. S. Sahu, NPO (TB), WHO
4. Dr.Fraser Wares, MO(TB), WHO-India
5. Dr.Puneet Dewan, MO(TB), SEARO
6. Dr. Neeraj Raizada, Consultant (TB/HIV), CTD
7. Dr. Rahul Thakur, Consultant (HIV/TB), NACO

In the meeting after detailed deliberations the following decisions were taken:

1. Evaluation of CPT pilot in 3 districts of Andhra Pradesh

The evaluation of the pilot in 3 district of Andhra Pradesh of decentralized delivery of CPT for HIV-infected TB patients, supervised by the RNTCP, would be undertaken on the 12th and 13th September 2007.

a) Objectives of the evaluation would be:

- a. Evaluate the operational delivery of CPT to HIV infected TB patients, including
 - i. The identification of HIV-infected TB patients; and
 - ii. The provision of CPT to those identified.
- b. Evaluate the referral of HIV-infected TB patients to ART centres.
- c. Assess the uptake and programmatic impact on the RNTCP recording and reporting system.
- d. Develop lessons for scale-up of decentralized CPT services.

b) It was decided that the following officials from CTD, NACO and WHO would participate in the evaluation:

Team A: Vishakhapatnam District: Dr. Ajay Khera, JD,NACO, Dr. Neeraj Raizada, WHO Consultant TB/HIV, CTD

Team B: Anantpur District: Dr. S.Sahu, NPO (TB), Dr. Rahul Thakur, WHO Consultant TB/HIV, NACO, Dr. Po Lin Chan, MO-HIV, WHO

Team C: Vizianagaram district: Dr. B.B.Rewari, Consultant (ART), NACO, Dr. Puneet Dewan, MO-TB, SEARO, Dr. Yamuna Mundade, Consultant CTD.

All participants would reach the respective districts by evening of 11th September 2007.

c) The draft check list for the evaluation and other related documents, prepared by CTD, would be circulated electronically to all the evaluation team members by Dr. Raizada, Consultant TB/HIV, CTD.

- d) A debriefing meeting will be organized at Delhi in which the evaluation team would share their observations and make recommendations to CTD and NACO. The final report of the evaluation would be submitted by the end of September,2007

2. Intensified TB case finding at ART Centres

- a) In the TWG meeting held on 19th July 2007, it was decided to initiate intensified TB case finding at ART Centres as a priority, and also that operational research (OR) would be undertaken by CTD and NACO on this subject. As decided in the previous TWG meeting, a informal advisory group to develop protocol for the said OR was formed and its members were identified (List annexed). The advisory group would provide technical inputs for the development of protocol for the proposed OR and could meet as needed. The group would submit the final protocol to CTD and NACO for further action.
- b) Till additional evidence were available to develop a screening strategy for ART centres, a “Provisional guidance tool for Intensified TB case finding at ART Centres” would be sent to all ART Centres. The contents of the guidance tool were discussed and finalized. It was decided that based on the discussions the final draft of the document would be circulated among members of TWG for comments. The final document would be sent to all ART centres by the 1st Week of September, 2007.

3. Routine offer of Voluntary counseling and testing to TB patients in 8 States

- a) Routine offer of voluntary counseling and testing to TB patients would be operationalized in 8 States (i.e. the 6 HIV high prevalence states, plus Goa and Mizoram), and in all institutions having an NACP ART Centre.
- b) It was decided that a “ Two page training material” would be developed by CTD and NACO for the selected States. The same would be incorporated in to TB/HIV training modules.
- c) The detailed steps to operationalise the routine offer of VCT to TB patients were discussed and are as under:
- i) Sensitization training during the next review meeting of all DTOs and DNOs in the respective 8 States by experts from CTD and NACO..,
 - ii) Directives from the respective State to all DC and DMHOs to provide a 1-hour slot in the routine monthly MO review meetings for the respective DTO and DNOs to sensitize the MOs.
 - iii) Instructions to be sent to all ART Centres from NACO; to be followed up by DTOs and DNOs.
 - iv) Review of progress at District, State and National level, via routine TB/HIV reporting.

4. NACO has established 10 reference laboratories for HIV drug resistance testing. It was decided that in the next meeting of the National TWG, the laboratory experts from both the programmes would also be invited and detailed deliberations would be held to explore the possibility of collaboration between the two programmes in this area.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks.

Annexure

Members of advisory group for developing protocol for Operational research on intensified TB case finding at ART Centres

1. Dr. D. Bachani, JD, NACO
2. Dr. Ajay Khera, JD, NACO
3. Dr. Sachdeva, CMO, CTD
4. Dr.B.B. Rewari, Consultant ART, NACO
5. Dr. Puneet Dewan, MO (TB), WHO
6. Dr. PoLin Chan, MO (HIV), WHO
7. Dr. Neeraj Raizada, Consultant (TB/HIV), CTD
8. Dr. Rahul Thakur, Consultant (HIV/TB), NACO
9. Dr. Navneet Wig, AIIMS
10. Dr. Munjal, LRS Institute, New Delhi