

## Minutes of the HIV-TB Coordination Meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2007

1. A meeting on HIV-TB Coordination was held on the 10<sup>th</sup> May 2007, at NACO. The meeting was attended by:

- Dr. Jotna Sokhey, APD, NACO
- Dr. L.S. Chauhan, DDG (TB)
- Dr. Ajay Khera, JD, NACO
- Dr. B. B. Rewari, Consultant (ART), NACO
- Dr. Fraser Wares, MO (TB), WHO
- Dr. S. Sahu, NPO (TB), WHO
- Dr. Neeraj Raizada, Consultant (TB/HIV), CTD
- Dr. Rahul Thakur, Consultant (HIV/TB), NACO
- Dr. Daisy Lekharu, Technical Officer (HIV/TB), NACO

2. The "National Framework for Joint TB/HIV Collaborative activities" was placed for discussion and finalization at the TWG. The members of the TWG unanimously endorsed the document, and it was decided the framework would be jointly sent to the states for implementation.

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3. It was decided in the meeting that to facilitate the smooth implementation of the National Framework for Joint TB/HIV Collaborative activities, CTD and NACO would draft operational guidelines on TB/HIV. First draft of the document would be discussed in the next meeting.

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4. A two tier reporting formats on TB/HIV collaborative activities was approved by the TWG. The 1<sup>st</sup> format which is a simplified version of the existing reporting format, would be used by the 16 states having a relatively higher burden of HIV. The 2<sup>nd</sup> reporting format would be used in the rest of the country. It was decided that the revised formats would be sent to the states for implementation along with the National Framework for Joint TB/HIV Collaborative activities.

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5. The TWG was informed that the HIV survey in TB patients has been completed in 14 out of 15 districts except Tiruannamalai where 354 out of the required 400 samples have so far been collected. It was decided in the TWG that the sample collection in this district needs to be stopped. It was decided that a preliminary report on the analysis would be presented at the next meeting of TWG.

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6. TWG was further informed that the CPT pilot is being implemented for the last two months in 3 districts in Andhra Pradesh. More than 200 patients have already

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been started on treatment in the three districts. There were some operational issues regarding initiation of ART in patients referred from outside district. It was agreed upon that during referral of a client for ART, the client should ideally carry both the ART referral form as well as the HIV test report. In case a patient does not carry the HIV test report to the ART Center, the pre - ART registration should not be deferred. In the meanwhile a repeat HIV test should be done. This issue was clarified by Dr.Rewari and the TWG was informed that the message has already been sent across to all the ART centers.

7. The TWG felt a need to devise a TB screening Tool for patients at ART centers and other facilities caring for HIV patients. This was needed as no standardised screening for TB is done amongst HIV positive patients at the ART center.
8. The Medical Officers of the newly established ART centers and new MOs who are untrained in RNTCP at the ART centers need to be trained on TB/HIV and new trainings needs to be planned for them at the earliest.
9. Pilot on Routine referrals of TB patients for HIV Counselling and Testing in Mysore and Trichy is getting delayed due to non availability of 2nd and 3rd HIV testing kits in Mysore, Karnataka. CTD has further requested for waiving off Rs.10 for HIV test for referred TB patients. APD, NACO informed the group that NACO is considering waiving off the Charges for all clients getting tested at the ICTCs.
10. Dr.Rewari also informed the TWG that as per to the latest guidelines on ART, patients with special conditions like pregnancy, TB and severe pneumonia, ART may be started even with CD4 count of 200-350.
11. APD, NACO informed the participants that NACO was in the process of finalising HIV screening tool for Health care settings. The latest draft of the same would be shared with CTD.

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The meeting ended with a vote of thanks.