

Minutes of the TWG meeting on HIV-TB Collaborative activities on 20th Nov'08

The Meeting of the national level TWG on HIV-TB collaborative activities held in the committee room NACO, chaired by Dr LS Chauhan DDG (TB), CTD, and was attended by the following:

1. Dr. Ajay Khera, ADG, NACO
2. Dr. Devesh Gupta, CMO, CTD
3. Dr. Puneet Dewan, MO (TB), WHO-SEARO
4. Dr. F. Wares, WHO-India
5. Dr. S. Sahu, NPO (TB), WHO-India
6. Dr. Rahul Thakur, Consultant, HIV-TB, NACO
7. Dr. Vartika Sharma, Technical Officer, HIV-TB, NACO
8. Dr. Shanta, WHO APW
9. Dr. Kanchan, NTI, Bangalore

The minutes of the meeting are as follows:

1. The status of implementation of Intensified HIV/TB Package in the 9 states was discussed and it was noted that all the states had trained the Program managers but none of the states had completed their trainings. The trainings for the key staff involved in HIV/TB like the MO TC, MO ICTC, Counselors, STS/STLS and were in in different stages in these states. It was also noted that the MO PHIs were not trained in any of the states. It was discussed that a letter would be sent to all the concerned states to complete these trainings at the earliest for smooth implementation.
2. Training of MO (PHI) has not been conducted in any of the 9 states. It was recommended that their sensitization on HIV/TB collaborative activities should be done during the monthly meetings by 15th Dec'08 and their trainings should be taken up in the following months. It was also recommended that the state level master trainers should attend these sensitization sessions to give it the necessary focus.
3. List of master trainers on HIV/TB from all states has to be updated and put on the website so that the states could utilize these resource persons for their trainings. A record of the training status of various officials under the Intensified Package in 9 states has to also be updated and put on the website for the same.
4. It was also noted that most of the states had not yet procured Cotrimoxazole for CPT as per the intensified package; in this regards it was decided that a letter would be send to all states to procure the same at the earliest.
5. The urgent need to train ART center staff esp. counselors, for proper screening of HIV patients for TB and prioritization of patients with cough for visiting the MO (ART), was discussed. In view of standardized trainings and small numbers of ART centers, it was decided that the training would be conducted in 2-3 batches at NTI for all ART counselors, except NE states for which a batch would be conducted at NERO, Guwahati.
6. It was decided that a team from central level, both from NACO and CTD, will co-ordinate with experts at NTI, to finalize the module for training of the ART center staff. It was also decided that the module should be prepared by the end of the next month so that the same can be discussed and finalized in the next TWG meeting before rolling out the trainings in the first week of January.

7. The line list prepared for documenting the cross referrals between ART center to DMC was discussed and finalized during the meeting. It was further decided to take inputs from the CST division of NACO for establishing the line list mechanism between ART and DMC at the earliest.
8. It was also discussed to call for a Review meeting of the 9 states implementing the Intensified Package, in January, to get a follow up on the status of the activities under the package. It was decided to call the focal persons incharge of HIV/TB at SACS along with the PD and the State TB officer for this meeting.
9. It was discussed to disseminate information about the RNTCP-NGO scheme during the next TI Review meeting. It was discussed that Basic services division (BSD) would request for some time during the TI review meeting to disseminate and discuss the NGO scheme and request CTD to participate for the same.
10. A presentation was made by Dr Dewan regarding a modeling study done to find out the prevalence of HIV among the TB patients linking to the ANC data. The estimates of HIV/TB based on the national surveillance data show the prevalence of HIV among TB patients is higher than the WHO estimates of 1.2% HIV amongst TB patients. It was recommended to constitute a small working group of experts consisting of Dr AK Khera, Dr Devesh Gupta, Dr DCS Reddy, Dr P Dewan, Dr S Sahu and Dr R Thakur to review and finalize a national estimate of HIV/TB for the country and provide the same to WHO for revising the country estimates.