

---

# **Guidelines for the Diagnosis, Treatment and Prevention of Leprosy**

---



**World Health  
Organization**



# Guidelines for the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of leprosy



Guidelines for the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of leprosy

ISBN: 978 92 9022 638 3

© World Health Organization 2018

Some rights reserved. This work is available under the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 3.0 IGO licence (CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO; <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/3.0/igo>).

Under the terms of this licence, you may copy, redistribute and adapt the work for non-commercial purposes, provided the work is appropriately cited, as indicated below. In any use of this work, there should be no suggestion that WHO endorses any specific organization, products or services. The use of the WHO logo is not permitted. If you adapt the work, then you must license your work under the same or equivalent Creative Commons licence. If you create a translation of this work, you should add the following disclaimer along with the suggested citation: "This translation was not created by the World Health Organization (WHO). WHO is not responsible for the content or accuracy of this translation. The original English edition shall be the binding and authentic edition".

Any mediation relating to disputes arising under the licence shall be conducted in accordance with the mediation rules of the World Intellectual Property Organization..

Suggested citation. Guidelines for the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of leprosy. New Delhi: World Health Organization, Regional Office for South-East Asia; 2017. Licence: CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO.

Cataloguing-in-Publication (CIP) data. CIP data are available at <http://apps.who.int/iris>.

Sales, rights and licensing. To purchase WHO publications, see <http://apps.who.int/bookorders>. To submit requests for commercial use and queries on rights and licensing, see <http://www.who.int/about/licensing>.

Third-party materials. If you wish to reuse material from this work that is attributed to a third party, such as tables, figures or images, it is your responsibility to determine whether permission is needed for that reuse and to obtain permission from the copyright holder. The risk of claims resulting from infringement of any third-party-owned component in the work rests solely with the user.

General disclaimers. The designations employed and the presentation of the material in this publication do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of WHO concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. Dotted and dashed lines on maps represent approximate border lines for which there may not yet be full agreement. The mention of specific companies or of certain manufacturers' products does not imply that they are endorsed or recommended by WHO in preference to others of a similar nature that are not mentioned. Errors and omissions excepted, the names of proprietary products are distinguished by initial capital letters.

All reasonable precautions have been taken by WHO to verify the information contained in this publication. However, the published material is being distributed without warranty of any kind, either expressed or implied. The responsibility for the interpretation and use of the material lies with the reader. In no event shall WHO be liable for damages arising from its use.

Cover photos: Mr Masanori Matsuoka

# Contents

Abbreviations and acronyms .....	v
Acknowledgements.....	vii
Contributors .....	viii
Executive summary .....	xi
Part I: Guideline development process.....	1
1. Introduction.....	1
2. Rationale .....	3
3. Target audience .....	4
4. Goals and objectives .....	4
5. Methods .....	4
6. Key questions.....	7
7. Systematic review methods .....	10
8. Assessment of the quality of the evidence .....	10
9. Values, preferences and ethical considerations .....	11
10. Formulation of recommendations .....	12
Part II: Recommendations.....	15
1. Diagnosis .....	15
2. Treatment for leprosy .....	16
3. Prophylaxis .....	21
4. Implementation and evaluation.....	24
5. Updating .....	25
Part III: Research priorities .....	27
1. Leprosy diagnosis.....	27
2. Leprosy treatment.....	27
3. Prevention of leprosy .....	28
References.....	29

## *Annexes*

1. Summary on review of conflicts of interest .....	36
2. Evidence-to-recommendation tables.....	39
3. Guide for the focus group discussions to identify values and preferences of persons affected by leprosy .....	84
4. GRADE tables and literature review report .....	87



# Abbreviations and acronyms

BCG	bacille Calmette-Guérin
CI	confidence interval
COLEP	prospective sero-epidemiological study on contact transmission and chemoprophylaxis in leprosy
CRE	Office of Compliance, Risk Management and Ethics
DNA	deoxyribonucleic acid
DOI	Declaration of Interest
ELISA	enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay
EPI	Expanded Programme on Immunization
ERG	External Review Group
GDG	Guidelines Development Group
GLP	Global Leprosy Programme
GRADE	Grading of Recommendations, Assessment, Development and Evaluation
GRC	Guidelines Review Committee
HIV	human immunodeficiency virus
IDRI	Infectious Disease Research Institute
ILEP	International Federation of Anti-Leprosy Associations
LPEP	Leprosy Post-Exposure Prophylaxis
LRI	Leprosy Research Initiative
MB	multibacillary
MDA	mass drug administration
MDT	multidrug therapy
NDO-LID	natural disaccharide octyl-leprosy IDRI diagnostic
NGO	nongovernmental organization
NTD	neglected tropical disease
PB	paucibacillary

