

Management of Tuberculosis Training for District TB Coordinators

How to Organize Training for District TB Coordinators



**World Health
Organization**



US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

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This guide accompanies training material that was prepared based on the WHO document: Treatment of tuberculosis: guidelines for national programmes, 3rd ed. 2003 (WHO/CDS/TB/2003.313) for use in tuberculosis control programmes where WHO recommendations or compatible national recommendations are implemented.

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How to Organize Training for District TB Coordinators is one booklet in a set of materials for the course *Management of Tuberculosis: Training for District TB Coordinators*. The user of this guide should be familiar with the course materials and teaching methods.

How to Organize Training for District TB Coordinators

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How to Organize Training for District TB Coordinators

1. Introduction

1.1 Target population for this guide

This guide, *How to Organize Training for District TB Coordinators*, is for **national or provincial level staff responsible for training** District TB Coordinators. This guide explains options for using the course *Management of Tuberculosis: Training for District TB Coordinators*. The national TB control programme will determine how the course is to be used in a particular country and will make any necessary adaptations in the course materials. This guide is for the staff who will implement the training course according to directives from the national level.

When the national TB control programme decides to use the course materials as recommended, for complete training courses, **course directors** will be assigned to organize and direct specific courses. Course directors will typically need to use sections 3–7 of this guide, which describe preparing for a full course, training or briefing facilitators, and directing a full course. If alternative training options are chosen, refer to section 8.

1.2 Role of the District TB Coordinator

While the work of detecting and treating TB cases occurs at the health facility level, the District TB Coordinator is responsible for many activities that allow the health facilities to do their work, for example, supplying anti-TB drugs, training health workers, and ensuring laboratory support.

The District TB Coordinator is responsible for planning, organizing, implementing, and evaluating activities of a district TB control programme. TB control may be the individual's primary responsibility, or TB may be just one of several disease areas of responsibility.

A district usually serves a population of 100 000 or more. Depending on the size of the district and the number of staff available, the District TB Coordinator may be one person or a team of people. If a district is large, one full-time person solely responsible for TB control, or a team approach, may be justified. In a small district, it may be a part-time responsibility to coordinate the TB control programme. In the WHO training course, the person (or team) responsible for TB control at the district level is called the District TB Coordinator.

The District TB Coordinator is usually a physician or a nurse. He or she works at the district health office and may also have clinical duties at the hospital. The job of District TB Coordinator is primarily administrative and managerial. Although the District TB Coordinator must be thoroughly familiar with clinical guidelines of the national TB control programme, he or she is primarily responsible for enabling and monitoring the implementation of these guidelines, rather than actually treating patients.

The District TB Coordinator usually reports to the District Medical Officer (DMO) and is supervised by the Provincial TB Coordinator. The District TB Coordinator has no direct supervisory authority over health facility staff, but is responsible for overseeing their performance of tasks related to TB case detection and treatment. For example, the District TB Coordinator visits health facilities to observe performance, record cases in a *District TB Register*, make suggestions, solve problems, and provide training and support.

Health facilities providing TB control services in a district may include public or non-public health centres, hospitals, dispensaries, or health posts. Throughout the course materials, the term “health facility” is used to include all types of health services that deliver outpatient care. In most countries TB control is part of general health-care delivery, and TB patients are received along with other types of patients. Improving TB case management is part of improving health care in general.

1.3 Purpose of the training course

WHO designed the training course to teach to District TB Coordinators the skills and knowledge needed to plan, supervise, implement, monitor and evaluate activities of a district TB control programme. Specific learning objectives of the course are listed on pages 4–6 of this guide.

The course does **not** teach clinical skills and knowledge needed to detect and treat cases of pulmonary TB at the health facility level. Those skills and knowledge are taught in another course, titled *Management of Tuberculosis: Training for Health Facility Staff* (WHO/CDS/TB/2003.314), available through the WHO. The course for District TB Coordinators is designed to be entirely consistent with the course for health facility staff. In fact, District TB Coordinators may use *Management of Tuberculosis: Training for Health Facility Staff* as a resource for providing training in their districts. (See module *D: Provide Training for TB Control* of the course *Management of Tuberculosis: Training for District TB Coordinators*.)

Neither course teaches medical procedures used by clinicians to diagnose TB, manage severe side-effects, treat TB patients who have defaulted, or treat patients with chronic or multidrug-resistant TB (MDR-TB). For information on these procedures, physicians and other clinicians should refer to WHO treatment guidelines and other appropriate references.¹

It is expected that participants in the district-level course will implement the managerial, supervisory, and administrative procedures taught. In order to implement these procedures, District TB Coordinators will need:

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