

No. T-11020/29/1998(Admin ART)
Government of India
Department of AIDS Control
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
(National AIDS Control Organization)

6th Floor, Chandralok Building,
36 Janpath, New Delhi-110001
Dated: 09.09.2010

Guidelines for Prescription of Antiretroviral Therapy .

The antiretroviral therapy (ART) is now available free at 284 ART Centres across the country, wherein nearly 3.5 lakh PLHA are getting treatment. Since ART is a lifelong therapy with significant economic burden on families, we must assess patient's financial condition on affordability of not only lifelong ART but also their capacity for good nutrition, hygiene and other related expenses. Efforts should be made to refer all PLHA to Govt. ART centres for ART and treatment of OIs. This will help them save resources for good nutrition and other family needs. This will also make them eligible for free second line ART once they develop treatment failure on first line ART over a period of time.

All those who can afford or want to take treatment in private sector must be started a rational triple Drug "first line ART (NNRTI based)" unless there is a specific contraindication for the same. The "second line ART (PI based)" should only be resorted to in case of proven first line failure/ drug toxicity (summary of rational regimen enclosed based on National guidelines). Any unstructured irrational treatment using combination of first line and second line ARV, prescribing incomplete regimen, under dosages of ARV drugs etc by medical practitioners / clinics will have adverse impact on the structured national programme & consequent burden of drug resistance among patients as well as transmission issues. It has also been observed that many a time patients are initiated directly on second line regimen (PI based regimen). All doctors must familiarize themselves with national treatment protocols which can be accessed on NACO website www.nacoonline.org and are updated periodically.

An office memorandum no.- T-11020/29/1998(Admin ART) dated 26/08/2008 has already been issued in this regard by NACO and was endorsed by Hon'able Supreme Court in its judgment in Sahara house case no. 535/1998 on 1/10/2008. The court has also directed the Medical Council of India, Dental Council of India and Indian Nursing Council to

ensure compliance with these guidelines. Any irrational use of ARVs or deviation from national protocol will be viewed seriously as a professional misconduct.

It is once again emphasized that all initial ART prescriptions must be rational first line ART regimen. All private practitioners should send a quarterly report of patients with them to NACO & respective State AIDS Control Societies in the prescribed format. (copy enclosed)

This issues with the approval of Secy. (Department of AIDS Control) & DG, NACO.

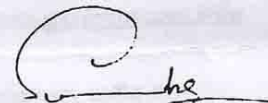


(Subhash Chandra)
(Under Secretary to the Government of India)

1. Project Director, State AIDS Control Society of all States/UTs/Municipal Corporations.
2. Principal Secretary/Secretary (Health & FW) of all States.
3. Director (Medical Education), Directorate of Health Services, of All States.
4. Director (Health Services), Directorate of Health Services, of All States with request to disseminate this to all hospitals / NGOs/ Health care providers in their state.
5. Nodal Officer, All ART Centres.
6. Regional Coordinators (CST).
7. All NACO officials.
8. The Solicitor General, India.
9. Medical Council of India
10. Dental Council of India
11. Indian Nursing Council
12. Indian Medical Association
13. Association of Physicians of India
14. Indian Academy of Paediatrics
15. FOGSI.

Copy for information:

1. PPS to HFM
2. PPS to MOS(H&FW)
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4. PPS to DGHS
5. PS to Secy. (AC) & DG, NACO



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