



Republic of the Philippines  
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**  
*Office of the Secretary*



August 22, 2024

**DEPARTMENT CIRCULAR**

No. 2024 - 0340

**FOR: ALL UNDERSECRETARIES OF UHC HEALTH SERVICES CLUSTER IN ALL AREAS, DIRECTORS OF CENTER FOR HEALTH DEVELOPMENT (CHD); MINISTER OF HEALTH-BANGSAMORO AUTONOMOUS REGION IN MUSLIM MINDANAO (MOH-BARMM); MEDICAL CENTER CHIEFS OF DOH HOSPITALS; DOH-DESIGNATED PRIMARY HIV CARE FACILITIES AND TREATMENT HUBS; AND ALL OTHERS CONCERNED**

**SUBJECT: Reiteration of the Guidelines on the Full Transition to Dolutegravir (DTG)-Based Regimens from Efavirenz-Based Regimens by January 2025**

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The Philippines remains committed to achieving the global Joint United Nations Programme on Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) /Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS) (UNAIDS) Fast Track Targets of 95-95-95, such that 95% of the People Living with HIV (PLHIV) will know their status, 95% of the people who know their HIV status will receive antiretroviral therapy (ART), and 95% of the people receiving ART will have viral suppression, ending AIDS-related deaths by 2030.

The Disease Prevention and Control Bureau (DPCB), through the National HIV, AIDS, and STI Prevention and Control Program, released Administrative Order No. 2022-0024, titled "Guidelines on Differentiated Treatment for People Living with Human Immunodeficiency Virus (PLHIV) and Prophylaxis for HIV-Exposed Infants," dated June 30, 2022, which provided guidelines on the differentiated or person-centered approach with updated and evidence-based standards and guidance on initiating and monitoring antiretroviral therapy among adults, children, and infants infected with HIV, as well as antiretroviral (ARV) prophylaxis for infants exposed to HIV in the Philippines. These strategies were aligned with setting the goals of the 7th AIDS Medium-Term Plan of the Philippine National AIDS Council, released in December 2022, offering safer and more cost-effective ART regimens.

These evidence-based standards of care are also espoused by the latest version of the Omnibus Health Guidelines (OHG) for Children, Adolescents, Adults, and Elderly, which are accessible at <https://doh.gov.ph/dpcb/omnibus-health-guidelines>.

To ensure the smooth transition to DTG-based regimens, *Section VI.C.1.* of the said guidelines states that:

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1. *Newly diagnosed or treatment-naïve adults, adolescents, children, and infants aged 4 weeks and/or >3 kg shall be initiated on Dolutegravir-containing regimens with optimal formulation as the preferred first-line regimen.*

- a. *Tenofovir (TDF) + Lamivudine (3TC) + Dolutegravir (DTG) is the preferred first-line regimen for adults, adolescents, and children weighing more than 30 kg.*

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Moreover, the 2020 Tenofovir + Lamivudine + Dolutegravir (TLD) Transition Plan states that all clients currently enrolled in Lamivudine (3TC) + Tenofovir (TDF) + Efavirenz (EFV) shall be *fully transitioned to Lamivudine (3TC) + Tenofovir (TDF) + Dolutegravir (DTG) by January 1, 2025, including those with Pulmonary Tuberculosis on Rifampicin and Women of childbearing potential. Those with established contraindications to DTG-based regimens shall remain in their current treatment regimen based on appropriate clinical evaluation.*

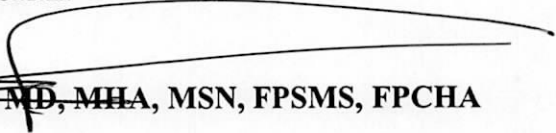
In view of the above, all Department of Health (DOH)-designated HIV Treatment Hubs and Primary HIV Care Facilities are hereby requested to adhere to the transition plan and fully communicate with all concerned patients, including extensive messaging on treatment success and treatment adherence.

The DOH, through the DPCB, shall ensure that the respective DOH-CHDs shall receive an adequate and timely supply of *Lamivudine (3TC) + Tenofovir (TDF) + Dolutegravir (DTG)*. Similarly, to guarantee continued supply, strict inventory monitoring will be enabled. This shall be facilitated through inventory reports generated from the One HIV, AIDS, and STI Information System (OHASIS), which will be triangulated to the manual submission of the Monthly Inventory Report (MIR) to the CHDs.

For easy reference, the above mentioned policies and issuance may be accessed through <https://tinyurl.com/TLDComPlan>.

For strict compliance and wide dissemination to all concerned.

**By Authority of the Secretary of Health:**

  
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