



Concepcion, AAL, Quelapio, MIJD, Orillaza-Chi, RB, Macalintal, LE, Raymond, LO, Gler, MT, Maramba, EK, Tupasi, TE, “Impact of Union Management Courses: Internal Consilium—opportunity for learning, coordination and peer support,” *The International Journal of Tuberculosis and Lung Disease*, Vol. 11, No. 11, (November) 2007, Supplement 1: S203.

Background: The Union has been conducting innovative management courses for TB control programs since 2004. One of the authors attended one of the management courses in Thailand, the 4th International Course in Management, Finance and Logistics for TB Control in November 2005.

Action Plan: A six-month action plan (AP) was developed as a requirement in completing the course. The AP implemented was aimed to establish a standardized approach in the programmatic management of MDR-TB patients in the Tropical Disease Foundation, Inc. (TDFI) through an International Consilium (IC). This approach ensured all MDR-TB suspects and cases were discussed in the IC prior to enrolment, change in treatment regimen, shift to continuation phase or determination of outcome.

Accomplishment: The AP facilitated the development of guidelines and tools for IC use; setting a common time for and organization of regular weekly IC meetings; preparation and submission of weekly summary of recommendations to IC members and clinic pharmacist for drug allocation; and conduct of peer review and revision of IC guidelines using available data.

Challenges: The following challenges have been identified: expanding the membership of the IC from largely clinical to multidisciplinary; implementing and strengthening monitoring and supervision; enhancing decision-making through sound and consistent policies; coordinating relevant activities with concerned units; developing practical tools and harnessing technology to facilitate discussions, data management, monitoring and supervision; and replicating the IC in other PMTM treatment centers.

Lesson Learned: development of IC guidelines and tools requires collaboration, proper coordination and follow-up to ensure that meetings are regularly conducted and that sound recommendations based on guidelines are made. Clinical and program coordinators are able to share their expertise and work together to come up with appropriate management plans for MDR-TB patients.