

Concepcion, AAL, Maramba, EK, Quelapio, MID, Gler, MT, Macalintal, LE, Orillaza, RB, Raymond, LO and Tupasi, TE, "Internal consilium: a standardised approach for MDR-TB management," *The International Journal of Tuberculosis and Lung Disease*, Vol. 10, No. 11, (November) 2006, Supplement 1: S126.

Background and setting: The Public- Private Mix DOTS (PPMD) clinic at the Makati Medical Center, Philippines has been managing multidrug- resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB) since 1999. In 2005, an Internal Consilium (IC) composed of clinicians and program coordinators was formed initiating a standardized approach to MDR- TB management utilizing consensus decisions based on WHO guidelines for drug- resistant TB and program conditions, vis-a-vis patients' clinical history and treatment course. Clinicians and program coordinators comprise the IC and meet once weekly.

Objective: To describe the IC process as a case management tool for MDR-TB care providers.

Design: A retrospective review of IC forms from September to December 2005.

Results: The IC process involves discussions of MDR-TB suspects and cases for the following reasons: a) patient enrolment to design MDR-TB treatment regimens; b) management during treatment prior to outcome eligibility to address 1) adverse drug reactions, 2) changing drug susceptibility, 3) need for a more appropriate drug or dose considering cost or availability, and 4) shift to continuation phase; and c) treatment outcome determination.

Conclusion: The IC is a strategic venue for training MDR-TB care providers in regimen design, ADR management and treatment outcome determination and in developing policies for MDR-TB management. It is a good model to replicate in regions where MDR-TB management will expand in the country.