

Minutes of the Zonal Task force Workshop South Zone 1 - 2015

Zonal Task Force Workshop for South Zone 1 was held at Hotel Novotel, Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh on 10-11 December 2015. The meeting was attended by delegates from more than 90 medical college of 3 states (Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Karnataka) in South Zone 1.

Inaugural session

The workshop began with the inaugural session where the dignitaries on the dais shared their views on the involvement of medical colleges under RNTCP and wished success to the workshop and hoped that the workshop will come out with suggestions for improvement of TB services for patients.

Technical updates

The inaugural session was followed by technical updates on programme activities. Following presentations were conducted and deliberated upon.

1. RNTCP Updates
2. Updates on Pediatric TB
3. Optimum Utilization of CBNAAT

State Presentations

After the technical update session, STF chairperson presented status of performance of medical colleges for TB Control. Following key issues were discussed.

- Andhra Pradesh
 - C&DST lab establishment in Kurnool Medical college need to be expedited. Place for the CDST lab at SMC, Vijayawada – STF Chair needs to intervene.
 - Only 1 medical college was visited by STF Chair/representative. This needs to be improved as the state has just been divided and more efforts required to streamline things.
 - Analysis of reports to be done jointly with STO and consultants and feedback to individual medical college to be sent.
 - No participation in internal evaluations – this is a good opportunity to understand RNTCP implementation and support in improvement of the quality.
 - STO was requested to ensure that approved thesis project should be funded as they are time bound and the student loses interest.
 - The Zonal OR Chair was requested to expedite the approval process for the Zonal OR submitted.

- The STO and STF Chair were requested to expedite the setting up of the CBNAT lab since the machines are already procured and would be arriving soon.
- A few noteworthy innovations were carried out by the medical colleges like standalone evaluation of medical colleges by STF; adoption of DMCs by medical colleges for quality enhancement. State can share more experience on it to CTD.
- Karnataka
 - Good participation from State. Reporting from all medical colleges was good.
 - No visits to medical colleges carried out in entire year.
 - Feedback of referred cases (78%) needs to be improved by active follow up.
 - Low number of ORs and thesis from State. A workshop should be done for improving submission of proposals and this should be followed by timely release of funds for initiation of research project.
 - Good number (7) of publications on RNTCP from the State
 - Innovation of standardising the SOP for State OR committee; and Multi-centric OR study: “Ring-a-patient” strategy to reduce loss to follow-up is being carried out
- Telangana
 - Only 1 STF was conducted due to non-availability of funds.
 - Analysis of data submitted from medical colleges is not being done and feedback on performance is not sent to colleges.
 - ORs and thesis can be improved further.
 - 8 publications from State is a good effort.
 - No nodal person designated for TB HIV coordination – STF should ensure that each medical college has a designated nodal person.
 - Efforts towards AIC were applauded.
 - Staff recruitment pending for many colleges – STO to look into and expedite process of filling up vacancies in medical colleges from RNTCP
 - Lack of coordination between medical college faculty and RNTCP officials – needs to be improved.

Panel discussion

State presentations on performance of medical colleges were followed by panel discussion on Pharmacovigilance and STCI. Following were key deliberations made on these topics.

Pharmacovigilance:

- Orders and guidelines need to be sent through official channel in order to formally engage all stakeholders in the medical colleges for pharmacovigilance.
- Pharmacology department should lead the activity of reporting of adverse drug reaction and be an integral part of the core committees and the STF and ZTF meetings.
- Trainings to all need to be provided to ensure that all are sensitized about the process and identification of adverse drug reactions.
- A system of recording and reporting on adverse drug reactions needs to be established.
- A Pharmacovigilance committee should be formed in each medical college.

STCI Panel:

- The medical college faculty needs to be trained as trainers for STCI for further training the students.
- Use of the STCI should be promoted among all during the core committee meetings
- Copies of the STCI should be circulated to all medical colleges and links shared with all.

Group Work:

The participants were divided in groups in following five thematic areas.

- Strengthen linkage for case finding and clinical management
- Monitoring & Evaluation
- Trainings and capacity building
- Operational Research
- Infection control

Following this, presentations were made on challenges in these areas and their solutions as recommended by the group.

ZTF Core Committee Meeting: key discussions and decisions:

- Newer medical colleges need to be involved
- State level Operation Research workshops need to be conducted.
- Next ZTF to be held in Karnataka.
- CTD to share the annual training calendar of the National Institutes with the NTF/ZTF and STF Chairs
- DEO for STF Chair not recruited for any State. Same to be followed up by the CTD.

- Low number of visits of the STF and ZTF Chairs to the medical colleges.
- Update Principal/ Dean/ Director regarding the proceedings
- Disseminate the learnings and updates among all core committee members and all departments concerned
- Regularly review the reporting of TB cases from all departments in medical college on monthly basis
- Disseminate new developments among peers; associations etc.
- Discuss infection control measures for HCW with members of core committee.
- Core committee meetings should be held regularly. And share key action points regularly with STF. The action should be taken from respective level without waiting for ZTF workshop