**Nursing Assessment and Management Tool - Patients Experiencing Side Effects on DR-TB Treatment**

Patients on treatment for drug resistant tuberculosis (DR-TB) face many challenges, most notably difficult side effects such as nausea, hearing loss and fatigue that may impact the patient’s quality of life, capacity to work and ability to continue activities of daily living. Recent studies have identified side effects as a major factor contributing to default from DR-TB treatment. The 2016 WHO Global TB Report noted a continued crisis related to treatment outcomes for multi-drug resistant TB with only 52% of patients successfully completing treatment in 2013.

Nurses are frequently the first point of contact a patient will have when seeking health care and are the main cadre of health professionals worldwide delivering and/or overseeing a patient’s daily directly observed treatment for DR-TB. As such, nurses are often the first to hear of a patient’s complaint of side effects during the course of DR-TB treatment.

In response to requests from nurses for additional resource tools, this job aid was developed to help nurses assess for and respond appropriately to side effects related to second-line anti-TB medications. The tool is designed as a desk-top reference so nurses can quickly:

1. Identify symptoms that may indicate a drug-related side effect;
2. Assess for severity as well as potential contributors; and
3. Intervene appropriately in order to minimize patient discomfort, reduce side effect progression, and ultimately support successful treatment completion.

This job aid was developed by nurses with experience in the clinical care and programmatic management of TB and DR TB in both high and low resource settings. It is adapted from the World Health Organization’s 2015 *Companion handbook to the WHO guidelines for the programmatic management of drug-resistant tuberculosis* (Tables 8.1 and 11.3) and incorporates relevant content from other key references including, but not limited to, the Curry International Tuberculosis Center’s 2016 *Drug-Resistant Tuberculosis: A Survival Guide for Clinicians* and Partners In Health 2013 *Guide to the Medical Management of Multidrug-Resistant Tuberculosis*.

**Pilot Testing:**

In order to assess the completeness and utility of the tool, this job aid is being pilot tested in a number of countries. Where deemed appropriate, the job aid will be translated into the written language most commonly used by the nurses involved in pilot testing the tool. Identified nurse leader(s) in the pilot test countries will disseminate the job aid to nurses caring for patients on treatment for DR-TB (in-patient and outpatient settings) and will collect feedback from these nurses using the evaluation tool provided. Please indicate below the nurse(s) who will serve as in-country Point of Contact for the pilot testing and send name and email address to \_\_\_Lisa True\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ at the email noted below.

The evaluation questionnaire should be completed by each nurse who has been provided a copy of the job aid to gather feedback on the tool’s:

* Usefulness in managing side effects
* Completeness
* Areas for improvement

Additional input may be gathered through focus group discussion with users where able.

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**Country Pilot Testing Point of Contact name and email:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_