

## **Letter to Doctors on the use of Programme Forms for Tuberculosis Patients**

20 December 2017

Dear Doctor,

### **Re: Programme Forms for Tuberculosis Patients**

Tuberculosis is still an important world-wide public health problem nowadays. The tracking of TB patients and ensuring their completion of anti-TB treatment is crucial for the success of national TB control programmes. The World Health Organization has recommended that an evaluation and monitoring programme should be in place for all TB patients in individual countries.

As the majority of TB patients in Hong Kong are being managed in the chest clinics of the Department of Health, such evaluation process has already been put in place for more than a decade in the chest clinics with the use of a set of Programme Forms. A modified set of such forms has been used for other TB patients managed in various health care sectors in Hong Kong. The Programme Forms collect the baseline clinical information as well as the progress and treatment outcomes of the TB patients.

The Programme Forms have been further revised recently, with an aim to simplify the forms to facilitate completion by users. The new Programme Forms can be downloaded from the website of TB & Chest Service, Department of Health. They consist of:

- (a) **PFA** - to be completed at around DOS (date of starting anti-TB treatment)
- (b) **PFB** - to be completed at 6 month from DOS
- (c) **PFC** - to be completed at 12 month from DOS
- (d) **PFD** - to be completed at 24 month from DOS

The forms, soon after completion at the scheduled time, should be sent to the following, as previously:

Statistics Unit

Tuberculosis and Chest Service Headquarters

1/F, Wanchai Polyclinic Clinic, 99 Kennedy Road, Hong Kong

Fax: (852) 2572 8921

We plan to use the new forms for all TB patients in Hong Kong with date of notification from 1 January 2018 onwards. We would be most grateful for your kind cooperation and assistance in this surveillance programme. Hence, for every patient with a new episode of TB, the case should be notified to the Department of Health, using the notification form DH 1A(s) (Rev. Jul 2008), together with a completed PFA. (The other forms PFB, PFC, and PFD are to be completed at the scheduled time by the source of care. We may issue reminders to the last known source of care if necessary.)

Please feel free to contact the undersigned for clarification if there are any problems. Your kind assistance in this matter is very much appreciated.

Many thanks.

Yours sincerely,

Dr CK Chan  
Consultant Chest Physician  
(TB & Chest Service, Department of Health)