

## Consensus Statement for TB notification by of the Medical College Task Force under RNTCP

In India, 28 lakh TB patients are estimated to occur in a year. RNTCP has been able to notify 17 lakh TB patients in 2016. Many of these missing patients are treated outside RNTCP. Reaching these patients who seek care in private sector is necessary in our path to end TB in India. The National Task Force has always supported the RNTCP in TB care service expansion and is committed to support the programme in improving notification of TB patients treated outside the programme.

The NTF acknowledges that there is an immediate need for notification of all TB patients by all practitioners to the Revised National TB Control Programme. NTF recognizes that though TB has been made a notifiable disease since 2012, notification from private health care providers is not significant including from faculties working in medical colleges. It also recognizes that many medical colleges are currently treating TB patients outside RNTCP and sometimes, it is needed also. However, such patients at times are not notified. There are faculties who work both in medical colleges and private health facilities and patients addressed by them are also missed during notification for various reasons.

In view of the above, we, at National Task Force 2017, representing all medical colleges and teaching faculty, pledge that

1. All medical colleges diagnosing and treating TB should ensure that each and every patient of TB is notified.
2. All efforts will be made to ensure microbiological confirmation of diagnosis of TB from a quality assured laboratory wherever possible;
3. Treatment is undertaken only with regimens, recommended under the Standards for TB Care in India
4. Any patient treated using treatment regimen outside RNTCP should also be notified to RNTCP.
5. All TB patients will be extended public health services as per the revised TB notification order. These include contact investigation, preventive therapy, treatment adherence support upto treatment outcome reporting, comorbidity testing and drugs susceptibility testing as per Standards for TB care in India.
6. Cause of death of TB patients will be reported to encourage and assist in death audit
7. Medical colleges will advocate with private practitioners to notify every TB patients to RNTCP.
8. Faculties of medical colleges practicing in private will also not miss any TB patients from notification.
9. We ensure that all benefits of notification including financial incentives if available will be extended to all patients
10. We will also ensure that all health staff in the system maintains the dignity of notified patient including shared confidentiality within health system and if any issue regarding the same is observed, will take to highest level and inform Programme officer to take necessary action