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When replying please quote:

Ref: MOH/ADM/1/1/2

Date: 18th Sept' 2020

TO: All County Directors for Health

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The Chief Executive Officer
Council of Governors
Delta Plaza
NAIROBI

REF: USE OF RIFAMPICIN/ISONIAZID 75/50mg FOR TUBERCULOSIS PREVENTIVE THERAPY FOR CHILDREN BELOW 5 YEARS OF AGE WHO ARE HOUSEHOLD CONTACTS OF BACTERIOLOGICALLY CONFIRMED PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS PATIENTS.

The country has adopted better and shorter treatment options to be used as TB preventive therapy (TPT) for populations at high risk of tuberculosis, which is in line with WHO recommendations. The Ministry of Health now recommends a change from the use of 6 months of Isoniazid (INH) as a TB preventive therapy among children below 5 years of age, who are household contacts of bacteriologically confirmed pulmonary TB patients, to the use of 3 months of RH 75/50mgs.

A thorough clinical evaluation should be conducted and only those found eligible should be initiated on a daily dose of RH 75/50mgs, for 3 months. Pharmacovigilance evaluation should be done to assure quality and safety on every clinic visit, until the treatment is completed. Further clinical follow up and monitoring should be conducted for up to 2 years after TPT is completed.

Documentation of the child's records on TPT should be done in the Contact Management Register by the health care worker in the TB clinic and uploaded in TIBU by the Sub-County TB Coordinator (SCTLC) on a monthly basis. Treatment outcome is to be documented at the end of 3 months as per the guidelines. The drugs ordering process and pharmacovigilance reporting of ADRs is to be coordinated by the Sub-County Pharmacist.




ISO 9001:2015 Certified

Below is the dosing schedule for 3 months of RH 75/50 mgs (3RH) regimen for children

Weight bands (kg)	Number of tablets (RH 75/50mg)	How to reconstitute the medicine
Less than 2	$\frac{1}{4}$	Dissolve one (1) tablet of RH in 20 ml of safe drinking water. Once fully dissolved, give 5ml ($\frac{1}{4}$) of this solution measured with a syringe.
2 – 2.9	$\frac{1}{2}$	Dissolve one (1) tablet of RH in 20 ml of safe drinking water. Once fully dissolved, give 10ml ($\frac{1}{2}$) of this solution measured with a syringe.
3 – 3.9	$\frac{3}{4}$	Dissolve one (1) tablet of RH in 20 ml of safe drinking water. Once fully dissolved, give 15ml ($\frac{3}{4}$) of this solution measured with a syringe.
4-7.9	1	Dissolve the tablet(s) of RH in 20mls of safe drinking water.
8-11.9	2	
12-15.9	3	
16-24.9	4	Once fully dissolved, give ALL this solution to the child
>25kg	Use adult formulations	

The purpose of this letter therefore is to advise all healthcare workers to henceforth use RH 75/50mgs instead of Isoniazid as a TB preventive therapy for children below 5 years of age who are household contacts of bacteriologically confirmed TB cases. Please note that children living with HIV shall continue to use Isoniazid since rifampicin is contraindicated for use by persons on protease inhibitors and Nevirapine based regimens.



Dr. Patrick Amoth