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REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA
MINISTRY OF HEALTH

In reply please quote:

No.....

NDEKE HOUSE
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24th March, 2020

To: Provincial Health Directors
District Health Directors
Senior Medical Superintendents
Medical Superintendents
Director, Medical Stores Limited
Implementing Partners
CHAZ
CDC
USAID
WHO
PEPFAR

Dear All,

RE: MULTI-MONTH DISPENSATION AND USE OF TLE/TLD DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The above subject matter refers to.

The Ministry of health through the national HIV program is committed to providing optimized ART services for people leaving with HIV in Zambia. However, the current COVID-19 Pandemic is feared to bring disruption in the Tenofovir Lamivudine Dolutegravir (TLD) global supply chain and will pose a risk for infection transmission to the recipient of care (RoC) visiting the health facilities. To mitigate these threats, the Ministry of Health is urgently promoting the three (3) or six (6) multi-month dispensation (MMD) for RoC and guiding that Tenofovir Lamivudine Efavirenz (TLE) be temporarily used in place of TLD while we await the normalization of TLD global supplies chain.

In view of these circumstances the MOH is giving the following guidance for immediate and urgent implementation:

1. Health care workers (HCWs) should counsel the clients on TLD and temporarily switch clients **(from TLD) to TLE until adequate stocks for TLD are attained.**
2. All PLHIV initiating antiretroviral therapy (ART) should be **initiated on TLD (or TAFED)** as per national guidelines.
3. All PLWHIV on TLD or TAFED for less than 6 months should continue on the same regimen.
4. All health facilities (HFs) providing ART must ensure that all RoC in contact with the HF receive 6MMD of ART.
5. Children aged 2-10 years should receive at least 3MMD of ART with appropriate adherence counselling of caregivers.

6. Adolescents 10-19 years should receive at least 6MMD with appropriate adherence counselling.
7. Clients failing treatment and receiving enhanced adherence counselling (EAC) should be provided with a 3 month supply of ARVs and continue EAC by phone.
8. Clients with other co-morbid conditions e.g. DM, TB – should be provided with 3-6MMD of ART and consult clinician regarding the co-morbid condition.
9. Clients on pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) should receive 3 months of TL/TE and monitoring of side effects and adherence done by phone.
10. Viral loads should be performed on all PLHIV on ART as per national guidelines.

For more information, please contact Dr Sombo Fwoloshi on +260977319994/
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Yours Faithfully



Dr Kennedy Malama
Permanent Secretary- TS
MINISTRY OF HEALTH