



GUJARAT STATE AIDS CONTROL SOCIETY

(Established by H&FW Deptt., Govt of Gujarat)

O-1 Block, New Mental Hospital Complex,
Meghaninagar, Ahmedabad – 380 016.

Phone : (P.D) 079-22681043

Phone : 079-22685210, 22680211-12-13

Fax : 079-22680214

E-mail : sacsgujarat@gmail.com

No. GSACS/MMD/COVID19/ART Centre/3432 - 3529/2020

Dated: 22nd March 2020

To
All Nodal Officers
ART centres
Gujarat

Sub: Regarding guidance for 'on ART' patients care at ART centre in view of COVID 19 threat.

Dear All,

As we all are aware that under the threat of the COVID pandemic, crowding in public places is not permitted. In these circumstances it is desirable that only sick patients requiring emergency care may visit the hospitals for treatment. All other PLHIV with mild illness which requires outpatient care / follow up care should not visit the hospitals for the next two weeks or till further order to prevent crowding and spread of COVID-19.

In view of above facts, the following decisions have been taken for PLHIV:

- 1) All on ART PLHIV visiting ART centres/ Link ART centres may be provided with 2-3 months ARV drugs, based on the availability of stock of the drugs at the centre.
The exceptions for Multi Month Dispensation (MMD) may be following:
 - a) Newly initiated on any type of ART regimen
 - b) PLHIV on regimen, which are not in sufficient stock (Adult ZL, Raltegravir, Third line, Plain ARV drugs)
 - c) Critically ill PLHIV who are in need of hospitalization
 - d) Those PLHIV who in the opinion of the SMO / MO are in need of frequent assessment or scheduled for some critically needed investigations.
- 2) The viral load testing is already on hold for next 2 weeks by Metropolis. If appointments were given for viral load testing only, please call these patients and tell that they need not come at centre, provided they have enough stock of medicines.
- 3) The follow-up CD4 testing may be kept on hold for next 15 days. Only critical ill patients needing emergency CD4 testing may be called for it.
- 4) All other follow-up investigations (blood and radiological), viral load testing at public health laboratories (Sola and Gandhinagar) may also be kept on hold, until and unless it is needed critically for any decision making or for new enrolment.
- 5) The patients with WHO stage 3 or 4 illnesses may need immediate clinical interventions so they must be dealt with care and if needed to be admitted in the non-COVID19 hospital setup.
- 6) The patients on first line ART of district other than parent ART centre District, must be called telephonically one day prior to get the medicines from the ART Centre near to their home. In case of stigma issue in visiting nearby hospital facility, the ART centre staff of that institute may coordinate to supply medicine at a place convenient for the patient.
- 7) The Vihaan staff may be involved for the delivery of medicines at the home of patients residing within city of ART centre.



GUJARAT STATE AIDS CONTROL SOCIETY

(Established by H&FW Deptt., Govt of Gujarat)

O-1 Block, New Mental Hospital Complex,
Meghaninagar, Ahmedabad - 380 016.

Phone : (P.D) 079-22681043

Phone : 079-22685210, 22680211-12-13

Fax : 079-22680214

E-mail : sacsgujarat@gmail.com

- 8) The DSD centres may also be used for the refilling of medicine for the patients at any regimen.
- 9) The recording of all dispensation out of ART centre may be done on a paper/notebook and to be included in IMS later on.
- 10) The ART centre staff may work on rotational duty as per convenience of all without affecting quality ART care.
- 11) SACEP should be e-SACEP only except for critically ill patients needing admission at higher centre.
- 12) Enough Hand sanitizer and masks should be made available at ART Centres. All staff must have hand sanitizer and repeatedly wash hands in between patient handling.
- 13) The Patients having respiratory illness symptoms (Cough, sneezing) or 4S positive, must be fast tracked and to be provided with appropriate treatment for their current illness, in consultation with Medicine OPD (COVID 19 OPD).
- 14) The staff who is symptomatic for suspected COVID19, may be given paid sick leave for minimum 14 days period irrespective of their leave balance.

Thanks and best wishes.

Yours truly,

(Dr. Rajesh Gopal)

Additional Project Director
Gujarat State AIDS Control Society
Ahmedabad

Copy forwarded with compliments to:

- 1) Commissioner (Health, Medical Services, Medical Education & Training) and Project Director GSACS.
- 2) DDG CST, 9th Floor, Chandralok Building, 36 Jan path, New Delhi-110 001

Copy forwarded to:

- 1) Medical Superintendents (all)
- 2) CDMO cum Civil Surgeons (all)
- 3) DTHOs (all)