

Facilitator Instructions for Activity 2: Ethics Assessment Tool

Objectives

- Have delegates evaluate their TB programme in the context of the ethical guidance that will be discussed during the training
- Help delegates better understand the specific areas in their programmes that may be strengthened by the application of this guidance

Question

- What was your experience completing the tool?
- Based on the tool, what are some challenges or strengths around ethical management of TB in your programme?

Time Allotted

60 minutes

- 5 minutes for instructions
- 40 minutes for completion of the tool
- 15 minutes for plenary discussion

Materials Needed

- Ethics Assessment Tool
- Activity 2: Ethics Assessment Tool Delegate Hand-out

Procedure for running activity

1. Explain that the *Ethics of Tuberculosis Prevention, Care and Control: An Assessment Tool for National TB Programmes* was developed based on the previously mentioned WHO ethics guidance
2. Explain that the purpose of the ethics assessment tool is to help TB programmes assess themselves on topics covered in the WHO guidelines. The tool can assist programmes in identifying potential strengths and gaps in the ethical treatment of TB patients
3. Ask delegates to complete the assessment tool based on their knowledge of the TB control programme they support
4. Explain that the purpose of completing the tool at the beginning of this course is to allow delegates to better understand the specific areas within their TB programme that may be strengthened by the application of the ethical guidance that will be discussed during the training
5. Emphasise that delegates may not know the answer to all the questions on the tool, and that this is fine. Delegates should complete the tool to the best of their ability, and leave out the questions they cannot answer
6. Inform delegates that their completed tool will not be collected or provided to their supervisors. However, delegates may choose to share the tool when they return to their work setting, or may choose to complete the tool more fully (possibly with other members of the TB programme) as described in the introduction to the tool itself
7. Distribute ethics assessment tool and the hand-out called Activity 2: Ethics Assessment Tool Delegate Hand-out

8. Inform delegates that they have 40 minutes to complete the tool and that they will be asked to provide feedback in a plenary discussion
9. Provide a time check after 30 minutes, when they have 10 minutes remaining, and again when there are 5 minutes remaining. If delegates finish completing the tool early, you may choose to move on to the plenary discussion. If delegates are still working on the tool after 40 minutes, ask them to stop and indicate that they can complete the tool, during the break or over lunch
10. Facilitate a plenary discussion by asking delegates to share their experience completing the tool. Prompts can include:
 - a. What did delegates think about the process of completing the tool?
 - b. Did anyone have difficulty completing the tool? If so, what were the specific areas or challenges?
 - c. Thinking about the completed tool, are there any ethical gaps or challenges that they can identify in their TB programme?
 - d. What were the strengths or accomplishments regarding ethical TB management within their programmes?
11. Close the discussion by providing summary points from the Tips section

Setting the scene

In some ways ethics around management of TB can seem simple and even 'common sense'. For example, clearly ethical principles would indicate that effective high quality diagnosis and treatment services should be available to all at no cost. However, in resource limited settings operationalising these simple concepts can sometimes be challenging. Further, with the ongoing TB/HIV epidemic, increase in drug-resistance, new ethical questions and challenges are emerging. Finally, some of the ethical dilemmas and challenges faced by TB programmes may not have clear or simple solutions. The purpose of the WHO ethics guidance, the assessment tool, and this course is to help gain a better understanding of issues, identify, share and discuss challenges and approaches and raise awareness of these issues within TB programmes.

Currently the WHO *Guidance on ethics of tuberculosis prevention, care and control* as well as the ethics assessment tool and this training course cover the following topics:

- Access to care
- Patient-centred care
- Information, counselling and consent
- Adherence
- Drug susceptibility testing and treatment of resistant disease
- Health care workers' rights and obligations
- Isolation and legal interventions
- Research

However, in 2015 WHO convened a working group to look at other emerging ethical issues around TB, so new guidance may be released. This is a reminder that as new diagnostic tools and treatments are made available, and drug resistant TB and TB/HIV situations continue to pose challenges for patients, communities, and TB control, an evolving ethics and human-rights based perspective should be applied to TB prevention, care and control activities.

Tip

Reinforce that completion of the ethics tool in this course is to help delegates better understand the specific areas within their TB programme that may be strengthened by the application of the ethical guidance that will be discussed during the training. During the next two days, delegates should be thinking about challenges and gaps identified from the completion of the tool. Some of the course discussions and activities over the next two days will help delegates to develop strategies for improvement. However, clearly delegates will not be able to address all of the gaps or challenges that they identify. Remind delegates to focus on strategies, approaches and actions that fit into their roles and responsibilities.