

Republic of Zambia Ministry of Health

GUIDELINES FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF LEPROSY

Second Edition March 2020

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Foreword

The Ministry of Health has made tremendous progress in reducing the burden of Leprosy in Zambia. Leprosy cases dropped from approximately 18,000 cases in 1980 to about 1000 cases in 1996. By the year 2000, the incidence rates had fallen to 0.67/10 000 population. Despite having achieved elimination target in the year 2000 (1 leprosy case per 10,000 population) Leprosy remains an important public health problem in Zambia and globally.

Every year we continue to record new cases of leprosy. In some provinces and districts leprosy cases are quite high pausing a threat of a resurgence. Particularly that over sixty percent of the leprosy cases that we are detecting are multibacillary, a form of leprosy that is infectious and easily transmissible from one person to the other.

These guidelines provide a step by step guidance in the detection, management and prevention of leprosy in our health facilities and the community. These guidelines are targeted for health facility managers, health care workers both in public and private facilities and the community. For us to maintain leprosy elimination levels, zero disability due to leprosy and avoid any resurgence of the disease in our country, all health care workers, including community health workers should be reoriented on leprosy identification, care, treatment and prevention. Health training colleges and medical schools should include leprosy in their curricula. Community awareness about leprosy should be intensified so that we achieve our goal of eradicating leprosy in Zambia.

Leprosy is a notifiable disease, I therefore, urge all health care workers to ensure that leprosy cases are notified and reported to the national level promptly.

Lastly, I welcome these guidelines, developed with the support and active involvement of all stakeholders including civil society organizations. I urge all public and private health institutions, cooperating and implementing partners, and civil society organizations to plan the implementation of leprosy activities based on these guidelines.

DR KENNEDY MALAMA PERMANENT SECRETARY-TS

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Abbreviations and Acronyms

BCG	Bacillus Calmette-Guerin
BI	Bacterial index
EHF	Eyes, Hands, Feet
ENL	Erythema nodosum leprosum
gm	gram
HIV/AIDS	Human Immunodeficiency Virus / Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
ILEP	The International Federation of Anti-Leprosy Associations
MB	multibacillary
mg	milligram
MDT	multidrug therapy
PB	paucibacillary
PT	posterior tibial nerve
SDR	single-dose rifampicin
SSS	Slit-skin smear
SWP	Strong, Weak, Paralyzed
TID	three times a day
ТВ	tuberculosis
VMT	Voluntary Muscle Test
WHO	World Health Organization

1.0 Introduction

Leprosy is an infectious disease caused by mycobacterium leprae (M. leprae), an acid-fast, rodshaped bacillus. The disease mainly affects the skin, peripheral nerves, mucosa of the upper respiratory tract and the eyes. Leprosy is also known as Hansen's Disease, named after the scientist Dr. Gerhard Armaur Hansen from Norway, who discovered the bacillus in 1873.

In 2008 another species of mycobacterium, Mycobacterium lepromatous was discovered as a cause of a rare form of the disease known as Diffuse Lepromatous Leprosy (DLL). These guidelines, however, only address management of leprosy caused by Mycobacterium leprae.

Untreated Multibacillary (MB) leprosy is the main source of infection and may expel over 100,000,000 bacilli in nasal discharge daily. A susceptible host who inhales the air droplets containing theses bacilli, may develop the disease. Leprosy is curable and treatment in the early stages can prevent disability.

Leprosy is most common in warm, wet areas in the tropics and subtropics. Leprosy is common in Asia, Africa, Central and South America. Ninety percent (90%) of the global leprosy cases are found in developing countries, including Zambia. The disease affects all age groups, sexes, racial groups and social levels. The average incubation period for leprosy is three to five years but can be up to 36 years. The reason for this lengthy incubation period is due to host immunity and slow multiplication of the bacillus.

National level statistics indicate that Zambia has reached the leprosy elimination target according to the World Health Organization (WHO) recommendation of less than one case per ten thousand population implying it is not a public health problem. However, there are still some areas in Zambia with high prevalence of leprosy compounded by poor data recording and surveillance.

2.0 Definitions used in Leprosy

- The **incidence** is the total number of new cases of leprosy that appear in a population during a given period.
- The **incidence rate** is the total number of new cases of leprosy that appear during a given period per 10 000 population.
- **Detection** is the identification, diagnosis and registration of all new cases in a population during a given time period.
- **Detection rate** is the identification, diagnosis and registration of all new cases in a population during a given period per 10,000 population.
- **Prevalence** is the number of all active cases on treatment in a population at a certain point in time.
- **Prevalence rate** is the number of all cases on treatment in a population at a certain point in time per 10 000 population.

3.0 Epidemiology

- Leprosy is most prevalent in tropical countries. Over the past 35 years, global prevalence had increased from 8.4 cases per 10,000 in 1966 to a peak of 12 per 10,000 population in 1985. There has been a steady decline with below 1 case per 10,000 in 2000.
- 107 out of 122 countries considered endemic in 1985 have reached elimination at the country level. At the end of 2000 leprosy was a public health problem only in 15 countries. Leprosy is largely concentrated in 6 countries accounting for 88% cases and these countries are India, Brazil, Nepal, Myanmar Madagascar and Mozambique.
- There were 208,619 new leprosy cases registered globally in 2018 according to World Health Organization official figures from 159 countries from the six WHO Regions. Based on the184,212 cases at the end of 2018, prevalence rate corresponds to approximately 0.2/10,000.
- In 2019, Zambia registered a total of 208 new cases of leprosy. See table below

PROVINCE	Quarter 1		ter 1 Quarter 2		Quarter 3		Quarter 4		Annu	ual Total	Total
	PB	MB	PB	MB	PB	MB	PB	MB	PB	MB	
Western	2	10	0	25	2	7	1	8	5	50	55
Central	1	7	0	9	0	6	2	16	3	38	41
Northern	1	4	0	8	3	4	1	10	5	26	31
Copperbelt	0	1	1	7	5	6	0	1	6	15	21
Southern	2	2	2	2	0	5	0	1	4	10	14
Luapula	0	2	0	2	0	6	0	1	0	11	11
Lusaka	0	0	0	7	0	3	0	1	0	11	11
North Western	0	2	0	3	0	4	0	3	0	12	12
Eastern	0	1	0	3	0	0	0	2	0	6	6
Muchinga	0	0	0	2	0	3	0	1	0	6	6
TOTAL	6	29	3	68	10	44	4	44	23	185	208

Table 1 : New cases of Leprosy by province in 2019

3.1 Characteristics of the Bacillus

Rod shaped, Acid fast Bacilli, (as it retains the red colour after stained with Ziehl Neelsen over a blue background)

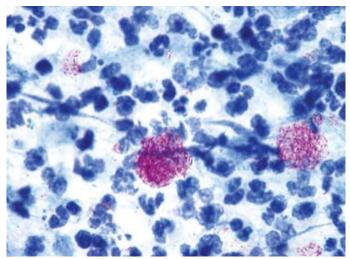


Figure 1: Acid fast bacilli Mycobacterium leprae

• It is an intracellular organism that cannot be cultured and can only grow in the Nine- banded Armadillo(Dasypus novemcinctus) (see Figure 2 below)



Figure 2 : Nine-banded Armadillo

- The bacillus has affinity for the peripheral nerves (Schwann cells)
- Remains suspended in the air for a long time
- Can be killed by sunlight

4.0 Transmission

4.1 Source of infection:

- The infected human being is considered the only source of infection.
- Infection capacity of multibacillary leprosy is 4 -11 times higher than of Paucibacillary leprosy.
- On excretion from nasal secretions, M. Leprae will remain viable in air for longer periods.
- This prolonged survival makes airborne transmission a reasonable possibility.

4.2 Mode of transmission:

- For transmission to occur viable bacilli must leave the body of the patient and enter that of the contact
- Prolonged exposure or close contact are considered necessary for transmission to occur.
- However, in susceptible individuals even short duration of contact may occasionally cause the disease.
- Therefore, it is likely that the respiratory tract and the skin are commonly the route of entry.

5.0 Diagnosis of Leprosy

The diagnosis of leprosy is based on the presence of at least one of the three cardinal signs:

- 1. Definite loss of sensation in a pale (hypo pigmented) or reddish skin patch;
- 2. Thickened or enlarged peripheral nerve with loss of sensation and/or weakness of the muscles supplied by that nerve; or
- 3. Presence of acid-fast bacilli in a slit-skin smear. (confirmatory test)

5.1 Early symptoms of Leprosy

Hypo pigmented skin patches



Figure 3 : Hypopigmented skin patches due to M. leprae



Figure 4 : Skin lesions on the thigh of a person with leprosy

- Numbness in the hands and feet
- Facial palsy
- Weakness in the hands and the feet
- Thickening of the skin especially on the face
- Nodules and plaques



Figure 5 : Nodules and plaques due to M. leprae



Figure 6 : Sharply demarcated reddish brown plaques and nodules





Figure 7 : Nodules and thickening of facial skin due to M. leprae (01)



Figure 8 : Nodules and skin thickening due to M. leprae (02)

5.2 Nerves commonly affected by Leprosy

- Supraorbital nerve face.
- Greater auricular neck.
- Upper radial lateral upper arm.
- Upper ulna near elbow medially.
- Superficial radial near wrist.
- Lateral popliteal Head of fibula.
- Posterior tibia below internal malleolus.

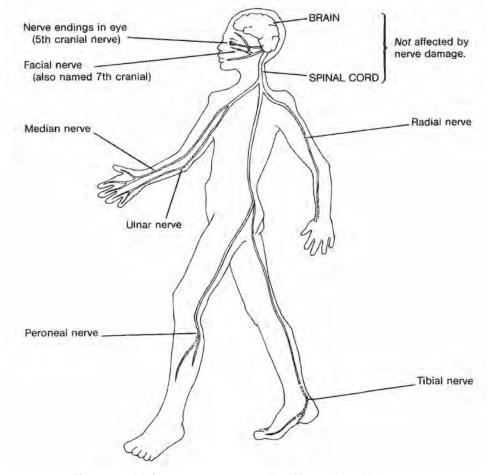


Figure 9 : Main nerves commonly affected by M. leprae



Figure 10 : Hands digit erosion



Figure 11 : Enlargement of nerves due to infection with M. leprae

5.3 Classification of Leprosy

The classification of leprosy patients is not due to the difference in the strains of the causative organisms. It can be classified based on number of skin lesions or number of bacilli on skin smears. The range of clinical manifestations depends on the infected individual's immune response to leprosy bacilli. There is only one strain of the mycobacterium leprae.

5.3.1 Importance of classification

- To determine the duration of treatment.
- To determine the prognosis in the disease course and possible complications.
- For research purposes.

5.3.2 Classification

• WHO recommends Leprosy patients to be classified as either Multibacillary (MB) or Paucibacillary (PB).

If there is doubt about the classification, the patient should be classified as MB and be treated accordingly.

5.3.2.1 Paucibacillary (tuberculoid)

- 5 lesions.
- Lesions are asymmetrically distributed
- Definite loss of sensation on the lesions.
- Only ONE nerve trunk is enlarged.
- Negative Slit Skin Smear (SSS).

5.3.2.2 Multibacillary(lepromatuous)

- More than 5 lesions.
- Lesions are symmetrically distributed.
- Some degree of loss of sensation on the lesions.
- Many nerve trunks are enlarged.
- Positive Slit Skin Smear.

5.4 WHO Disability Grading

5.3.3.1 Hands and feet

- Grade 0: No anaesthesia, no visible deformity or damage
- Grade 1: Anaesthesia present, but no visible deformity or damage
- Grade 2: Visible deformity or damage present

5.3.3.2 Eyes

- Grade 0: No eye problem due to leprosy; no evidence of visual loss
- Grade 1: Eye problem due to leprosy present, but vision not severely affected as a result (vision 6/60 or better; can count fingers at six metres)
- Grade 2: Severe visual impairment (vision worse than 6/60; inability to count fingers at six metres)

5.5 Differential Diagnosis of Leprosy

Below is a list of differential diagnoses for Leprosy. However, the list is not exhaustive:

5.5.1 Macular lesions

- Birth mark
- Vitiligo
- Pityriasis alba
- Pityriasis rotunda
- Tinea versicolar
- Erythema dyschromicum (Ashy dermatosis)
- Localised scleroderma (Morphea)
- Lchtyosis vulgaris
- Post-inflammatory hypopigmentation
- Tinea corporis
- Granuloma multiforme
- Psoriasis
- Lupus vulgaris
- Discoid lupus erythematous 5.5.2 Nodular skin lesions
- Disseminated anergic cutaneous leishmaniasis
- Post kala-azar-dermal leishmaniasis
- Kaposi's sarcoma
- Neurofibromatosis

6.0 Treatment

6.1 Aims of treatment

- To cure the patient (using multi drug therapy)
- To render patient non-infectious and thus control the spread of leprosy
- To prevent the development of multi drug resistant leprosy

Drugs used in leprosy as recommended by WHO are a combination of rifampicin, clofazimine and dapsone (MDT). The duration of treatment for PB leprosy is 6 months and 12 months for MB leprosy.

Rifampicin:

- Bactericidal drug
- A single 600-mg monthly dose is almost as effective as daily rifampicin for treatment purposes
- Given once a month
- The slow multiplication rate of M. leprae (about once in 12 days) justifies the use of rifampicin as monthly therapy
- In this dosage it is almost nontoxic
- · Patient must be warned that it will make the urine red for few hours after its intake

Clofazimine/Lamprene:

- Bactericidal and Bacteriostatic
- This is most active when administered daily,
- Is well tolerated and virtually nontoxic in the dosage used for MDT.
- The drug causes brownish-black discolouration and dryness of the skin but although this disappears within a few months after stopping treatment and this should be explained to patients starting the MDT regimen for MB leprosy.
- It also has anti-inflammatory activity and is used to treat type 2 Lepra reaction

Dapsone:

- Bacteriostatic; this is very safe in the dosage used in MDT, usually at a dose of 1-2 mg per kg/day
- Side effects are rare but the main one is allergic reaction, causing itchy skin rashes and exfoliative dermatitis. Therefore, patients known to be allergic to any of the sulpha drugs should not be given dapsone
- In a few cases, there is a feeling of 'heat' or difficulty in sleeping
- A mild haemolytic anaemia is common

6.2 Recommended Treatment Regimens

Age group	Drug	Drug Dosage and frequency						
			MB	PB				
	Rifampicin	600 mg once a month	12	6				
Adult	Clofazimine	300 mg once a month and 50 mg						
Addii		daily						
	Dapsone	100 mg daily						
	Rifampicin	450 mg once a month	12	6				
Children	Clofazimine	150 mg once a month and 50 mg						
(10 14 years)		daily						
	Dapsone	50 mg daily						
Children <10	Rifampicin	10 mg/kg once month	12	6				
years old or <40	Clofazimine	100 mg once a month, 50 mg twice						
		weekly						
kg	Dapsone	2 mg/kg daily						

Table 2 : Recommended leprosy treatment regimens

Guidelines for the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of leprosy [©] World Health Organization 2018

6.3 Treatment for drug-resistant leprosy

The World Health Organization Guidelines Development Group recommends for leprosy patients with rifampicin resistance to be treated using at least two of the following second-line drugs: clarithromycin, minocycline, or a quinolone (ofloxacin, levofloxacin or moxifloxacin), plus clofazimine daily for 6 months, followed by clofazimine plus one of the second-line drugs daily for an additional 18 months.

In case of rifampicin plus ofloxacin resistance, a quinolone should not be chosen; therefore, the recommended regimen is clarithromycin, minocycline and clofazimine for 6 months followed by clarithromycin or minocycline plus clofazimine for an additional 18 months.*

	Treatment							
Resistance type	First 6 months (daily)	Next 18 months (daily)						
	Ofloxacin 400 mg* +	Ofloxacin 400 mg* OR						
	minocycline 100 mg +	minocycline 100 mg +						
Rifampicin resistance	clofazimine 50 mg	clofazimine 50 mg						
Riidmpicin resisiance	Ofloxacin 400 mg* +	Ofloxacin 400 mg* +						
	clarithromycin 500 mg +	clofazimine 50 mg						
	clofazimine 50 mg							
Rifampicin and ofloxacin	Clarithromycin 500 mg +	Clarithromycin 500 mg						
resistance	minocycline 100 mg +	OR minocycline 100 mg						
resisionce	clofazimine 50 mg	+ clofazimine 50 mg						

 Table 3: Recommended Drug Resistant Leprosy regimens

*Guidelines for the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of leprosy® World Health Organization 2018

*Ofloxacin 400 mg can be replaced by levofloxacin 500 mg OR moxifloxacin 400 mg

6.4 Reactions in Leprosy

The term reaction is used to describe the appearance of signs and symptoms of acute inflammation in the lesions of a patient with leprosy. It has to be pointed out that reactions is not something peculiar to leprosy, but that it is an immunological response of the body with the following signs of inflammation;-

- Redness.
- Raised temperature.
- Pain.
- Swelling and loss of function.

6.4.1 Types of Reactions;-

There are two types of reactions:

- Reversal reaction Type 1.
- Erythema Nodosum Leprosum (ENL) Type 2. ENL is more common in MB Leprosy

NB: It is much more urgent to recognize and treat the lepra reaction so as to prevent nerve damage than to decide which type the reaction is; the treatment of nerve damage is much the same whichever type of reaction is present.

6.4.2 Who can get leprosy Reactions?

- Almost any person with leprosy is at risk of getting a reaction with only one two patches and no nerve involvement.
- 25-30% leprosy patients experience reactions or nerve damage at one time or another.

6.4.3 Precipitating factors:-

- Inter-current infections (viral, malaria).
- Anaemia.
- Mental and physical stress.
- Puberty.
- Pregnancy.
- Parturition.
- Surgical interventions.

6.4.4 Identification of people at risk:-

- Patient within 6-8 months of starting MDT.
- Pregnant and lactating mothers.
- Adolescents (10-25 years of age).
- Patients with other infections like TB.
- Patients with lesions near or around the eye.

6.4.5 When do reactions occur?

- Before treatment.
- At diagnosis.
- During treatment.
- After treatment has been completed.

6.4.6 Reversal Reaction

6.4.6.1 Recognition of reversal reaction

Site	Severity									
	Mild	Severe								
Skin	Swelling and rednessburning in patches	 Swelling, redness and pain in patches with fever and generalised body malaise and possible ulceration 								
Nerves	 No pain, sometimes tingling or burning, No loss of function. Duration less than 6 weeks 	 Pain and tenderness Loss of function. Duration longer than 6 weeks 								
Skin and nerves together	 Swelling in patches, Some nerves tenderness No loss of function. Duration less than 6 weeks 	 Swelling, redness, pain, ulceration of the patches and/or oedema of hands and feet Pain, tenderness and loss function of the nerve trunks Duration more than 6 weeks 								



Fig. 136 *Reversal reaction* in a patient with borderline (BT) leprosy

Fig. 137 The same patient (Fig. 136) after treatment with prednisolone

${\bf 6.4.6.2} \ \ {\rm Treatment} \ {\rm for} \ {\rm mild} \ {\rm reactions} \ {\rm in} \ {\rm the} \ {\rm field}$

- 1. Continue anti-leprosy treatment, do not lower the dosage
- 2. Give an analgesic (Aspirin, Butazolidine etc.)
- 3. if there is nerve tenderness, rest the affected limb (sling or splint the arm)
- 4. See the patient again after 1-2 weeks and tell him to return at once should the reaction become more severe

6.4.6.3 Treatment of severe Reaction

- 1. Continue anti-leprosy treatment
- 2. Start treatment with steroids(prednisolone)- no other drugs are effective
 - 40mg daily for 2 weeks
 - 30mg daily for 2 weeks
 - 20mg daily for 2 weeks
 - 15mg daily for 2 weeks
 - 10mg daily for 2 weeks
 - 5mg daily for 2 weeks
- 3. Severe reaction is an emergency. The patient should be transferred to the specialised centres as soon as possible.
- 4. If a 'flare-up occurs the dosage may be raised again by one step for a further two weeks.

6.4.7 Erythema nodosum leprosum (ENL)

This reaction occurs in patients with MB Leprosy, and usually starts 6 months or more after the start of antileprosy treatment. However, reactions may occur earlier after the start of Anti Leprosy treatment.

6.4.7.1 Cause of the reaction:-

The reaction is caused by an allergic response of the body to leprosy bacilli, particularly when they have been killed and are breaking up. It is not directly due to MDT. This reaction occurs most commonly in areas of the body where leprosy bacilli are present such as the skin, nerves, eyes, testicles and lymph nodes. It can also, however, occur in the joints and kidneys. The signs of this reaction are local inflammation; that is pain, swelling and redness; and general malaise and fever.

Site	Mild	Severe
Skin	 Few crops of red, tender nodules Few nodules present at one time Mild fever and malaise A few nodules may ulcerate 	 Many crops of red, tender nodules Many nodules present at one time Severe fever and malaise Many nodules may ulcerate. Patient very ill
Nerves	 No pain Tenderness and/or swelling No loss of function 	 Pain and/or tenderness Swelling and/or loss of function
Eyes	There are no "Mild" eyes reactions	 Pain Reduction in vision Redness around limbus
Testicles	No pain, tendernessNo swelling	 Pain, tenderness and swelling

6.4.7.2 Recognition of ENL

6.4.7.3 General principles for treatment of ENL

- a) Control acute pain
- b) Halt eye damage
- c) Bed rest
- d) Treatment of specific symptoms appropriately

6.4.7.4 Mild ENL:-

- a) Continue anti-leprosy treatment in full dose. If there is tenderness of nerves rest of the affected limb.
- b) Analgesia (Aspirin, Panadol) when necessary
- c) Chloroquin 250mg TID for 1-2 weeks
- d) Stibophen

6.4.7.5 Severe ENL:-

- a) Continue anti-leprosy treatment in full dose.
- b) Refer the patient to the hospital if the reaction involves nerves or eyes.
- c) Corticosteroids as indicated in type one reaction.
- d) Lamprene in addition to MDT.
- e) Thalidomide: start 200-400mg/day and reduce to 50-100mg/day after one or two weeks.

6.5 Deformities and their Management

6.5.1 Definitions

Deformity is defined as any deviation from normal appearance of any part/s of the body. It may or may not be accompanied by disability.

Disability means the inability of a person to do normal work.

Disability and deformity primarily result directly or indirectly from function loss of peripheral nerves supplying eyes, hands and/or feet.

6.5.2 Factors associated with deformity

Type of	Deformities/disabilities are commonly found in patients with MB
Disease	leprosy.
Duration of	The longer the disease lasts, the more prone to developing
disease	deformities.
Nerve	Nerve thickening has often been associated with deformities
thickening	due to functional loss of the organ being supplied by that nerve.
Age	Deformities due to Leprosy are more frequent in the 20 to 50-year
	age-group. However, they may develop in any age-group.
Sex	Deformities are less common in women than in men.
Occupation	Deformities and disabilities are more commonly found among
	manual workers, since they are more frequently exposed to
	injuries and infections.

6.5.3 Prevention of Disabilities

The most effective way to prevent disabilities is to prevent primary nerve damage. This implies: -

- Early diagnosis
- Early identification of reactions
- Drug treatment
- Early referral of Patients with reactions to the next level for further management.

6.5.4 Components of minimizing disabilities

- Emphasis on good communication-listening to patients, listening to colleagues and encouragement of patients by staff and staff by their seniors.
- Emphasis on patients role in self-help:-
 - Convince the patient that care is useful
 - Encourage patient to avoid skin cracks and wounds
 - Help patients to understand that minimising of disabilities is totally their responsibility, but the health worker is willing to render support

6.5.5 Care of Eyes

- Patient should avoid eye dryness e.g.
 - Check daily for signs of irritation.
 - Wash the face
 - Think blink
 - Exercise

Prevention of disabilities is teamwork of health workers and the patients. The patient MUST be taught to UNDERSTAND that he plays a major role in preventing disabilities by:

- Thinking before doing an activity
- Taking extra care of the hands and feet
- Inspecting daily on hands and feet for warm spots
- Soaking, oiling and exercising-Voluntary Muscle Testing and Sensory Testing.
- Correct footwear.

7.0 Recording and Reporting

Recording and Reporting is very important in the Leprosy programme for the capturing of operational Data. Accurate Recording and Reporting is important at all health service delivery points and data captured should be transmitted to higher level. Data captured should be used for planning purposes at all levels.

7.1 What should the programme contain?

The purposes of a leprosy control programme are reduction in the incidence of leprosy in the programme area by:

- a. Case finding
- b. Case holding
- c. Case management leading to arrest or cure of the disease.

7.1.1 Case finding:-

- a) Number of patients on register at the beginning of the period under review according to age groups, classification and disability proportion.
- b) Number of newly registered patients: -
 - New cases
 - Previously treated
 - Transferred in-according to age groups, classification and disability proportion.

7.1.2 Case holding: -

- a) Patients transferred out, died and lost from control according age groups, classification and disability proportion.
- b) Attendance rate for Lepromatous and Tuberculoid cases.

7.1.3 Case management

- a) Patients cured (disease arrested) and discharged.
- b) Patients developing complication; reactions
- c) Non improvement or worsening of condition (suspected drug resistance)
- d) Relapses (reactivation after discharge)
- e) Hospital admission
- f) Disability prevention and acre; health Education, follow-up, exercises, shoe making programme.

Reasons for Not Attending Appointments and Actions to be Taken

Reasons for missing appointments	Actions to be taken
Patient has moved out of your area	 Record this information in the treatment register
Patient is taking treatment at another health centre	Record this information in the treatment register
No confidence in the treatment services	 Improve the quality of services to regain the community and patients' confidence.
Patient had unpleasant side effects which is attributed to the treatment	 It is important to reassure the patient if it's a minor side effect and refer if it's a major side effect for further investigations and management.
Non-availability of services	 Make efforts to establish services and inform the community.
 Patient thinks that his/her condition has cleared completely 	 Assess the patient and review the records to confirm whether the patient is cured or not. Assessment of the patient should be done clinically or Slit Skin Smear where possible.

8.0 Myths and Misconceptions of Leprosy

- A curse from God.
- Patients considered to be unclean.
- Patients believed to be practicing witchcraft.
- People believe that Leprosy is incurable.
- People believe that Leprosy can be transmitted by handshake.
- People believe that having sex worsens the disease.

9.0 Prevention of Leprosy

9.1 Prophylaxis

Leprosy is associated with important clinical and social consequences. Zambia as a country has adopted the recommendation to give prophylaxis to contacts of new leprosy patients to curb the further spread of the disease.

The guidelines recommend the use of single-dose rifampicin (SDR) as preventive treatment for adult and child (2 years of age and above) contacts of leprosy patients, after excluding leprosy and tuberculosis (TB) disease and in the absence of other contraindications. Before giving prophylaxis to the contacts, ensure that you try and get consent of the index case to disclose his/her disease to the contacts.

Because Zambia is a high burden country for Mycobacterium Tuberculosis, caution must be exercised. MTB disease must be ruled out before administration of SDR.

Rifampicin is the drug of choice. Recommended dosage schedules for Single Dose Rifampicin (SDR) are given in Table below.

Rifampicin dose for single-dose rifampicin (SDR)

Age/weight	Rifampicin single dose
15 years and above	600 mg
10 – 14 years	450 mg
Children 6 – 9 years (weight ≥20 kg)	300 mg
Children <20 kg (≥2 years)	10 – 15 mg/kg

9.2 Vaccination

BCG at birth is effective at reducing the risk of leprosy; therefore, its use as a preventative measure should be maintained.

10.0 Community Engagement in Leprosy

10.1 Community screening

Trained Community Health Workers (CHWs) are able to identify presumptive leprosy cases in the community and are very important in leprosy control. After identifying a case their next role is to refer. At community level the CHWs are able to detect a presumptive leprosy case when a person has one or more of the following signs and symptoms:

- Presence of pale (lighter than normal skin) or copper coloured skin patches or red patches. These patches are dry, non-itchy or there may be loss of hairs
- Numbness or impairment or loss of sensation on the hands and or feet with thickening of peripheral nerves
- · Weakness and difficulty in normal movement of fingers/thumb/wrist/toes/ankles or eyelids
- Painless injuries, blisters, burns or ulcers in hands and feet
- Deformities such as clawing of fingers/ thumb, clawing of toes, high stepping gait due to foot -drop or inability to close eyes properly.

10.2 Role of the community in Prevention of Disabilities & Rehabilitation

There are many ways in which the complications of leprosy can be minimized by practicing good selfcare at home. People need to be informed clearly about the actions they can take at home that are appropriate for their particular situation. The health worker may be the main source of advice, but others may be recruited to help:

- Family members can help and encourage the person to do what is needed on a regular basis.
- Other people affected by leprosy can show how they have been able to look after themselves at home. Self-care groups have been able to look after themselves at home. Self-care groups have been started in some communities. A number of people with self-care needs meet together regularly to discuss the practicalities of self-care. These groups are often surprisingly supportive and can be very motivating for members.

10.3 Self-Care Groups (SCG)

A short description of Self-Care Groups is given here. In annex 2 a description is given on principles and advantages of a self-care group.

Definition

A self-care group is a group of people affected by leprosy trying to solve their problems due to leprosy. Objective

The general objective is to prevent or reduce disabilities in their members.

Specific objective

- To enable members to support each other in finding solutions for their own (physical, psychological, or economic) problems related to leprosy
- To encourage group members in using locally available materials for their treatment
- To monitor the participant efficiently and effectively
- To refer promptly for special care (for instance reconstructive surgery, rehabilitation)
- To increase the self-esteem and self-confidence of the members in order to be able to participate more actively in society
- · To decrease fear for leprosy among the participants, their family and involved staff

10.4 Community Leprosy Prevention

Without identifying all infectious cases in the community Leprosy will continue to spread among the population. The following can help to reduce the spread of leprosy:

- Demand creation for community to seek early diagnosis and treatment
- Community Health education to raise suspicion of leprosy by the community members
- Community Capacity building on basic facts about leprosy, signs and symptoms, and mode of transmission will improve early diagnosis and treatment.
- Community knowledge that leprosy disease is curable will reduce stigma and discrimination
- Community sensitization on the importance of single dose rifampicin chemoprophylaxis

11.0 Annexes

Annex 1: Documents Used in Leprosy Recording and Reporting.

QUARTERLY LEPROSY STATISTI	CAL REPOR	T AND DR	RUG ORD	DER FORM	1.					
Name of Clinic:										
District Population:	Quarter/Yea	ar								
Name of Reporting Officer:	Designation									
Date: 1. Registered by the end of the Previous Quarter.			AD	DULT	CHILI	Total				
			MB	PB	MB	РВ	-			
	Tota	al (1)	in D	15	IVID	10				
					•					
2. New Cases detected during this Quarter										
						DREN	Total			
	Tata	al (2)	MB	PB	MB	PB				
New Ch	ild cases - Age b									
	MB	PB	Т	otal	1					
New cases ≤= 5 years of age										
New cases between 6-15 years of age										
					-					
New cases by gende	1									
	Male	Female	Total	% Female	ļ					
New cases with grade 2 dis	abilities				ļ					
	Adult	Children	т	otal						
% of grade 2 disabilities										
Foreign born cases				1						
New foreign born cases		% foreign	born cases							
Retreatment cases					1	1				
Retreatment cases	3		A	DULT	СНІЦ	DREN				
			MB	PB	MB	PB	Total			
Number of relapses detected										
All other retreatment cases										
3. Removed from Register during the Quarter of Report.			A	DULT	CHIL	DREN	1			
			MB	PB	MB	PB	Total			
Treatment completed (Cured)										
Died										
Transferred out										
Treatment not completed Total (3)										
. Cases registered for treatment at the end of Quarter (including ne	w and retreatm	nent cases)								
			A	DULT	CHIL	DREN				
			MB	PB	MB	PB	Total			
Type I and Type II Reactions in leprosy					r		1			
			AD MB	DULT PB	CHILI MB	DREN PB				
Number of patients treated for Type 1 (Reversal reaction) during the Qua	ortor		IVID	PD	IVID	PD	Total			
Number of patients treated for Type 2 (ENL reaction) during the Quarter										
Treatment outcome for patients					-	-	-			
New MB cases who started treatment				I						
Of them, how many completed treatment within 18 months ?										
Of them, how many word last to follow up? ?		MB treatme								
Of them, how many were 'lost to follow-up' ? New PB cases who started treatment		MB treatme MB lost to fo								
New PB cases who started treatment		MB lost to fo	ollow up							
			ollow up t							
New PB cases who started treatment Of them, how many completed treatment within 9 months ?		MB lost to fo PB treatmen	ollow up t							
New PB cases who started treatment Of them, how many completed treatment within 9 months ?		MB lost to fo PB treatmen PB lost to fol R (In Blisters	bllow up t llow up							
New PB cases who started treatment Of them, how many completed treatment within 9 months ? Of them, how many were 'lost to follow-up' ? ANTI-LEPROSY DRUG STOCK DURING THE PERIOD AND ORDER FOR BLISTERS	NEXT QUARTEI	MB lost to fo PB treatmen PB lost to fol	bllow up t llow up	Balance	Required					
New PB cases who started treatment Of them, how many completed treatment within 9 months ? Of them, how many were 'lost to follow-up' ? ANTI-LEPROSY DRUG STOCK DURING THE PERIOD AND ORDER FOR BLISTERS MB (adult)		MB lost to fo PB treatmen PB lost to fol R (In Blisters	t Ilow up	Balance	Required					
New PB cases who started treatment Of them, how many completed treatment within 9 months ? Of them, how many were 'lost to follow-up' ? ANTI-LEPROSY DRUG STOCK DURING THE PERIOD AND ORDER FOR BLISTERS		MB lost to fo PB treatmen PB lost to fol R (In Blisters	t Ilow up	Balance	Required					

ent		Treatment Resumed									
Category of Patient		Transfer In									
Catego	-	Relapse after MDT									
		New							1		
25	ŧ	ш	 								
Disability grade at start of	treatment	т									
Disa gra(sta	real	ш									
			R	 ₽	 ₽	 ₽	 R	_	₽	 ≃	 ₽
Date Start	Date Start Treatment										
Classification	Classification MB/PB										
	Address										
	Age										
XeX	Sex M/F			1	1						
	Name in - "										
	District No.										
Sarial	No.										

LEPROSY REGISTER

24

TREATMENT RECEIVED	~													TREATMENT OUTCOME	I OUTCO	AE		Disability at end of treatment	lity at e satme	end nt	Remarks
EB	MAR	APR	МАҮ	NNr	n	AUG	SEP	OCT	NON	DEC	Extra	Total MDT	Treatment Completed	Default	Died	Trans Out	Othe r	ш	т ш	ш	
																		_			
																	1	2			
																		_			
																	I	2			
1																					
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Annex 2: Principle of Self Care Groups (SCG)

The main principle of the SCG is that members participate in all aspects of the group. They should be encouraged to decide about organizational matters within the group or topics to be discussed. Ideally the facilitator of the group only guides the activities during a meeting.

In a SCG, it is the members who prevent and reduce disabilities, not the facilitator. The members are supposed to practice self-care daily at home by using local materials. They should use the group meetings to control their improvements and to exchange experiences.

Advantages of Self Care Groups

Coming together in a group to approach similar problems brings many advantages:

- The understanding of the members about self-care will increase, because special time is reserved for explanations, discussions and practice
- Better understanding will then contribute to independent and confident management of disabilities by each member at home
- The peer pressure in the group helps them to be serious about practicing self-care at home
- Difficulties can be solved directly; problems can be discussed together, and experiences exchanged.
- Sharing problems may lessen the burden of individual members
- In a relaxed atmosphere of the group, asking and talking will be easier than it might be during limited consultation time with the health worker in the health center. For example, further ideas concerning socio-economic issues can be developed
- Helping and supporting each other gives people a good feeling about themselves and increases self-confidence
- The burden of wound healing is reduced in terms of work, funds and time

The functioning of Self Care Groups is described in manuals on SCG. The source chapter is **"Self-Care Groups: A manual for** *leprosy control programs"* (47 pages, including a DVD containing a 15 minute film about SCG), produced by the Ministry of Health Indonesia and Netherlands Leprosy Relief in 2004.

Annex 3: Leprosy Appointment Card

Republic of Zambia Ministry of Health NATIONAL TB/LEPROSY PROGRAM, ZAMBIA LEPROSY APPOINTMENT CARD PATIENT CARD NUMBER:	Type of Leprosy: MB PB Date of Diagnosis: Date of Treatment Started: Date of Treatment Started: Type of Patient New Transferred in Relapse Treatment resumed
	TREATMENT RECEIVED
Name of the nationt:	Enter date below month of collection
Name of the patient:	JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT NOV DEC Total MDT
Sex: M/F Year of birth (or age):	
	Next appointment date for drug collection
Present address:	Enter date
Tresent address.	
D (11	
Permanent address:	
	Date of Treatment completed:
Occupation;	
Nationality:	
Health Facility:	
District:	
Province:	

Annex 4: Follow-up Examinations

Follow-up examinations

Key : S = Strong, W = Weak, P = Paralysed

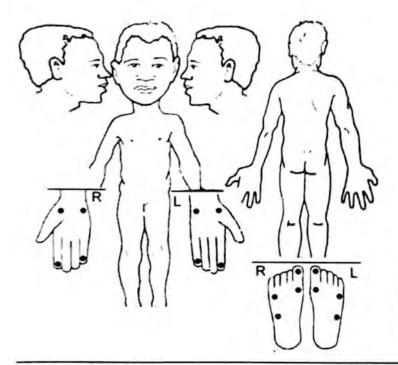
	RIG	HT SIC	E			VMT			LEFT	SIDE		
						DATE	1			-		-
						Eyelid Strength						
No	Tes	Ye No	YE No	Ye	No	Blink Normal	YENO	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	YENO
						5th Finger in						
						Thumb up (palm upwards)	1					
						Wrist up			-			
						Foot up						

		ST	
DATE	PALMS Right Left	SOLES Right Left	Verve function loss <6/12 Yes/No if answering 'yes' circle below
			Yes/No
			Yes/No
			Yes/No
			Yes/N
			Yes/N
	Gullin		Yes/N

Year	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	Extra	Total MDT
		-								-	-			
		-	-	-	-			_						
	_						1							
									-				-	

RFT Assessment

Date



R	VMT	1
	eyelid strength or gap mm	
	blin normal	_
	5th finger in	
	thumb up	
_	wrist up	-
	foot up	

R	DISABILITY	. L
	eye	
	hand	
	Foot	

R	VISUAL ACTIVITY	L
_	EYE SENSATION	
-	EYE SENSATION	

Nerves	me	dlan	uin	ar	pare	oneal	tib	lai
	R	L	R	L	R	L	R	L
tender		1.1.1	1.0					

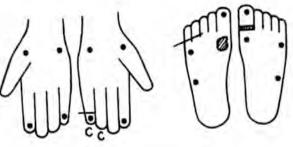
Summary on RFT		
skin	 	
nerves	 	
eyes	 	
hands	 	
feet	 	
Name examiner :		
Function :		
Signature		

Annex 5: Testing and Recording Sensation, Strength of Hands and Feet

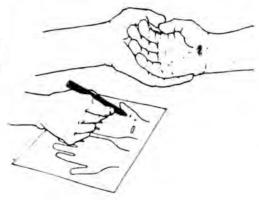
Hand and foot mapping, including sensation test (ST)



I Mark any wounds, open cracks, clawing of digits and bone loss on the Leprosy Control Patient Record Card (PRC).



2 Support the patient's hand/foot so that fingers/ toes are well supported to prevent joint movement during the test.





3 Explain the test to the patient. Rehearse it with her. Then test.

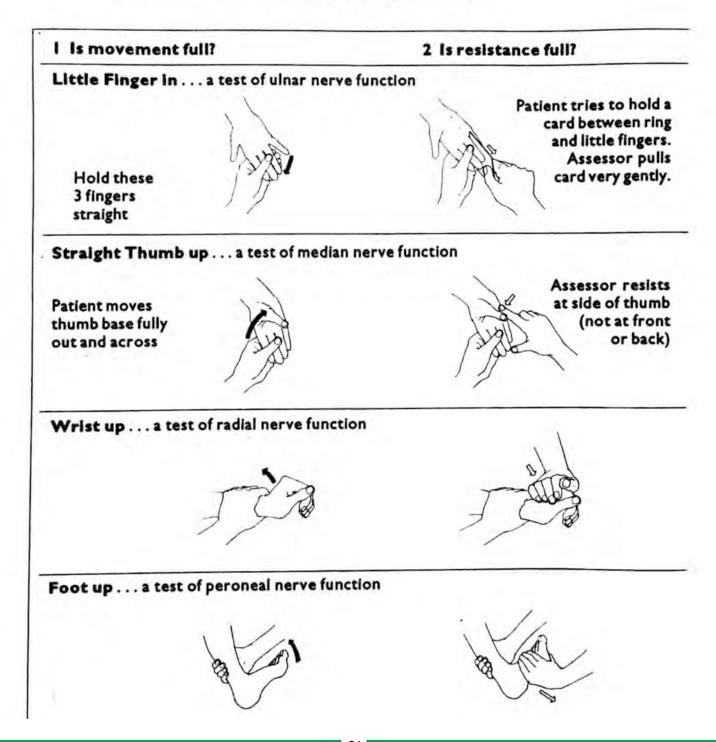
A book should be held between the patient's eyes and hand so that she cannot see. Dent the patient's skin in 1-2mm at dot sites using a ballpoint pen - asking the patient to point to the exact site whenever she feels. The stimuli should be irregular in timing and placing.

Compare sensation of the little finger with that over the thumb and sensation of one hand with the other, to see if there is a difference. Compare findings with those shown on any earlier records. Look for any CHANGE. Make sure that the change is real and not due to inaccuracies in testing. Record : / if the patient feels, X if he does not

Voluntary Muscle Test (VMT) Hand and Foot record

Tests should be in two clear parts

- A check of range of movement to see whether normal, reduced or absent due to muscle paralysis. Black arrows show movement required.
- 2 If movement is normal, a test for resistance. Press gently whilst asking the patient to maintain the position; resisting the pressure as strongly as possible. Then press gradually more firmly and judge whether resistance is normal, reduced or absent. White arrows show where resistance is applied.
- 3 Always compare the right hand or foot with the left.



Annex 6: Testing and Recording of the Eyes

Blink Record

Observe the patient's blink as you talk with him while he is not thinking about his eyes. If he knows you are examining his eyes he may stop blinking. Watch for these problems:

- I Lashes turned in and touching the eye
- 3 Incomplete closure during blink (observe from the side and see if upper and lower lashes meet).
 - 4 Redness and injury affecting the lower part of the eye not covered during blink.
 - 5 Lower lid hanging away from the eye. Overflowing tears.

2 Patient never or rarely blinking in one or both eyes

Record Yes or No beside Blink Normal. If answering No, list any problems seen and any patient complaints such as tearing, pain, burning sensation or vision loss, under COMMENTS

Eye Sensation Record

If blink is normal do not test sensation. If lid closure or blink frequency are abnormal test sensation as shown. Record by comment whether: normal/reduced/absent.

- I The assessor should wash hands before testing, then make a point out of a wisp of cotton wool and explain the test to the patient.
- 2 The patient should look to the opposite side and upwards as illustrated, covering other eye.
- 3 The assessor should:
 - approach from the side
 - touch the edge of the cornea, and
 - observe and record whether the patients reaction (i.e. his eye sensation) is: normal, reduced or absent.



Vision Record

- Test sensation with good light falling on the assessor.
- Ask the patient to cover one eye, and then count the numbers of fingers that the assessor holds up.
- Test at 6 metres. If the patient cannot see at 6 metres, retest at 3 metres.



Record vision under COMMENTS e.g.

DATE	COMMENTS
25/6/92	Vision counting fingers : Right eye - 3 metres , Left eye - 0 metres.

WHO disability grading (eye):

Grade 2 = the patient cannot count fingers at 6 metres.

Voluntary Muscle Test (VMT) Lid Record

The assessor should test and record the strength of the action illustrated on the right. Lid gap is recorded in mm. on light closure to test facial nerve function.

- The patient is asked to close the eyes lightly as in sleep.
- The assessor measures and records any gap in mm
- If closure is normal he records "0 mm".



Annex 7: Self Care of Eyes with blink problems

AVOID INJURY THROUGHOUT THE DAY a) Blink consciously b) Think when the dust blows c) Protect your eyes Try to close with or when winnowing from wind/dryness effort regularly Make 'think-and-blink' sun and heat a habit d) Keep your eyes clean and free from flies e) Cover your eyes at night **2 FOLLOW THIS DAILY ROUTINE** a) Inspect once or twice daily for dirt b) Remove foreign bodies by and redness: repeated 'think-and-blink' or - using a mirror very gently with a clean cloth - ask someone (relative) to inspect **3 HEAL WOUNDS QUICKLY** In case of irritation. vision change and/or injury: a) Report to a health visitor

b) Apply any prescribed ointment without touching the eye with the tube

Annex 8: Self Care of Hands without feeling (01)

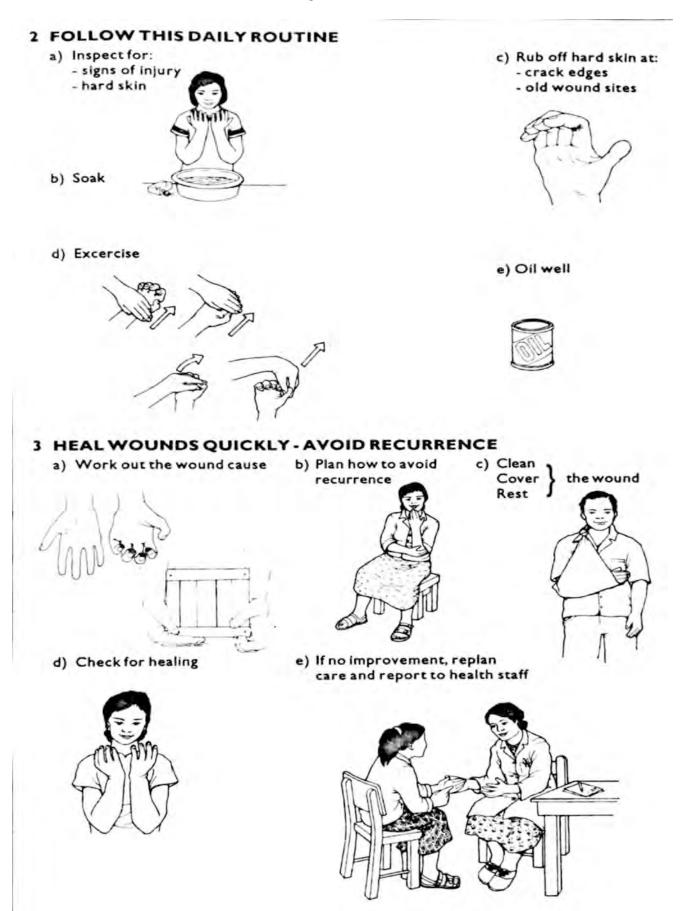
I AVOID INJURY THROUGHOUT THE DAY



Be aware of where feeling is present and lost



Annex 8: Self Care of Hands without feeling (02)



Annex 9: Self Care of Feet Without Feeling (01)

I AVOID INJURY THROUGHOUT THE DAY



Remember most sole wounds are:

- iost sole wounds are.
- at walking pressure sites
- caused by walking too much

Only by:

- walking less and/or
- using more protective shoe insoles can you lessen risk of such injury



a) Learn how far you can walk without sole injury



b) Buy footwear with well cushioned insoles, hard undersoles and no nails or rough edges that would hurt your feet*

c) Avoid long walks



d) Keep feet well away from the fire Non feeling skin burns easily



e) Avoid sitting cross-legged risk of ankle bone injury



Annex 9: Self Care of Feet Without Feeling (02)



Annex 10: Protective Footwear

IMPLEMEN	TATION TASKS	SUPERVISON TASKS check the following
Task I : Identify patients with sol	Identification	
Task 2 : Advise patients what foo acording to managers guidel	twear to buy and where to obtain it ines	Availability Suitability
Task 3 : Train patients to underst - what makes footwear prot - the importance of using pr or standing - possible sources - safe repair without nails o	ective rotective footweer whenever welking	Patients' usage of suitable footwear Repairs safe
' leprosy footwear', or is ina in obtaining footwear. Report footwear problems t	(e.g. the footwear has become known as ppropriate for work), of poor wear or delay o supervisor. with the patient any possibilities of improved	Monitor footwear usage, durability, safe repair. Solve problems or report to manager.
 a) Sports footwear that incorporates good insole cushioning 	 b) Modified shop sandals Straps lengthened and soft insole added 	
d) Heel strap added to house slippers	c) Footwear can be deepened by 1 cm and a soft insole added by : local shoe makers, factories, hospital-workshop	
Note. Soft slipper sole, with et		
and the holes plugged wi material, can be used as i se of protective, cushioned footwea	nsoling material. In by the majority needing it is the priority. F astitute, using suitable local shop footwear. se distribution of footwear for sale to patie oe workshops exist, their staff can form	Patients should be

1 Registration Data

Name and address of health facility:

Patient registration number:
Date of registration:
2 Personal Data
Name of the patient:
Sex: Male / Female Year of birth (or age): Place of birth:
Present address Permanent address Nationality:
Number of years of residence at present address:
Telephone number:
Occupation: Marital status: Single/married/widow Mode of detection: Contact survey/other surveys/voluntary/referred/ others (specify)
Previous treatment details (Specify drug regimen, duration and year of previous treatment):
Patient Status: New/relapse after PB MDT/relapse after MB MDT/transferred in/readmission after DDS monotherapy/treatment after default Contact History (Any known leprosy patient within the family) – Yes / No Details of household contacts Serial number
1
2
3
4
5
6

3 Disease Status (Initial) – Leprosy

	/	1										
Presenting symptoms		Patch/es, visible impairment, reactions, other (specify)										
Duration of presenting symptoms (in months & years)												
Numbers of skin One patches			2 – 5				>5					
Reactions – please enc	ircle (Yes/ N	o); If yes, plea	ase e	encir	cle (T	ype 1	/ Ty	pe 2)			
Nerve status			Ulr	ar	Median Radi		dial	al LPN		PT		
			R	L	R	L	R	L	R	L	R	L
		Thickening/ Pain/ Tenderness										
												-
WHO disability grading		Eye				Hc	ind				Foot	
(At the time of diagnosis)	Right											
	Left											

WHO grading for the eyes:

Grade Criteria

- 0 No severe visual impairment (can count fingers at 6 meters; visual acuity. 6:60). No visible impairments. Normal blink reflex.
- Loss of blink reflex and/or inability to hold the eyelids closed against moderate force to open them. No severe visual impairment (can count fingers at 6 meters – visual acuity. 6:60).
- 2 Visible impairments to the eye, severe visual impairment (cannot count fingers at 6 meters visual acuity, 6:60) and/or any other visible damage to the eye (regardless of cause).

WHO disability grading for the hands:

Grade Criteria

- 0 Touch is felt on the palm of the hand; no muscle weakness or visible impairment.
- 1 At least 2 points on the hand where touch is not felt and/or muscle weakness is present on testing, but there is no visible impairment.
- 2 Visible impairment of the hand if it has occurred since the onset of loss of sensation and/or loss of muscle function due to leprosy

WHO disability grading for the feet:

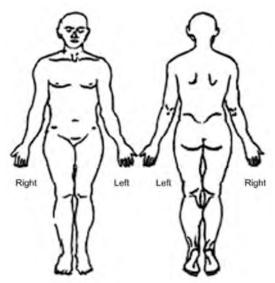
Grade Criteria

- 0 Awareness of sensation on the soles of feet; no muscle weakness or visible impairment.
- 1 At least 2 points on the foot where touch is not felt and/or muscle weakness is present (on testing) but there is no high stepping gait when the patient walks and there is no other visible impairment.
- 2 Visible impairment of the foot if it has occurred since the onset of loss of sensation and / or loss of muscle function due to leprosy. High stepping gait when the patient walks (obvious foot drop).

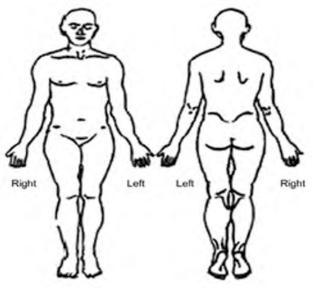
EHF Score (At the time of	
diagnosis)	

EHF Score is the sum of all the individual disability grades for the two eyes, two hands and two feet. Since the disability grade can be scored as either 0, 1 or 2, it follows that the EHF score ranges from 0 to 12. A score of 12 would indicate grade-2 disability of both eyes, both hands and both feet.

Body charting at start of treatment



Body charting at completion of treatment



Date of charting:

Date of charting:

4 Details of Other Conditions:

Medical History: (Mention Yes / No)

	/ 、			
Diabetes		Tuberculosis	HIV/AIDS	Any other disease:
	Hepatitis			
Other cond	itions:			

Pregnant	Drug allergy			

General Physical Examination:

Body weight:

5 Treatment Details

Drug regimen	РВ	MB	Any other regimen
prescribed	MDT	MDT	(specify)
(tick the appropriate			
column)			

Treatment Monthly Attendance (Schedule of Monthly Supervised Doses)

Dose	1	2	3	4	5	6
Date						
Dose	7	8	9	10	11	12
Date						

Date of treatment completion	
Outcome of	(default, died, transferred out, change of classification)
treatment	

6 Bacteriological Examination (Slit skin smear)

Date	
Number of sites taken	
Highest BI at any one	
site	
Average Bl	

7 Assessment of Disability & Nerve Function Voluntary Muscle Test

RIGHT		L	EFT
	Date		
	Vision (0,1,2)		
	Light closure lid gap in mm. Blink present / absent		
	Little finger out		
	Thumb up Wrist extension Foot up		
	Disability grade hands		
	Disability grade feet		
	Disability grade eyes		
On date			
Max. (WHO) Disability Grade			
EHF score			

Muscle power:	Score of vision: counting fingers at 6 meters
S = Strong W = Weak P = Paralysis W = Weak	0 = Normal 1 = Blurring vision 2 = Unable to count fingers

Sensory Testing

Date Assessor	PALM		SOLE		COMMENTS
73363301	RIGHT	LEFT	RIGHT		
	RIGHT	LEFT	RIGHT		
	RIGHT	LEFT	RIGHT		

Key: (Put these marks/icons on the site where lesion is seen)

U Sensation Present within 3 cm S Contracture O Scar/Callus O Wound A Shortening Level

£ Anaesthesia \ Crack

8 Notes

Record reactions (indicate Type 1 or Type 2); complications; relapse, etc

Date	Notes (signs & symptoms; diagnosis; treatment details)

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