

## HANDOUT FOR ASHA TRAINING

### 1. What is Leprosy?

Leprosy is a chronic infectious disease caused by bacteria, *Mycobacterium leprae*. It mainly affects the peripheral nerves and skin.

### 2. How to suspect Leprosy?

- i. See the patient in good daylight
- ii. See for presence of following signs/symptom:

#### A. Patches over skin

- Pale or reddish color, small or big, single or multiple patch anywhere on body.
- There is no pain or itching over the patches

#### B. Nodules on the skin

- Thickening and reddishness of skin or nodules on skin especially on Ear lobes, Face, Trunk, Arms & Legs

#### C. Deformities and ulcers

- Weakness and deformity in hand, foot or eye.
- Ulcer on the sole of foot.
- Inability to close the eye completely.



If you notice any of the above sign (patches, nodules or deformities) in a person, bring him/her to the Primary Health Centre for confirmation of leprosy by the Medical officer.

### 3. How to Group Leprosy cases for treatment?

- Pauci Bacillary (PB) – 1 to 5 skin patches
- Multi Bacillary (MB) – more than 5 skin patches


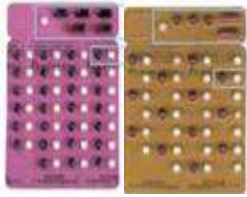
#### 4. Is leprosy curable?

Leprosy can be cured if complete treatment (MDT) is taken regularly by the patient.

#### 5. Where can patient get the treatment?

The treatment is available free of cost at all Govt. Health facilities.

#### 6. What is the treatment schedule?

Duration of treatment	MDT Blister pack
<b>PB case</b> -6 monthly doses (to be completed with in 9 months)	 PB (Ad) PB (Ch)
<b>MB case</b> - 12 monthly doses (to be completed with in 18 months)	 MB (Ad) MB (Ch)

#### 7. What are Signs of reaction?

The patches become red, swollen, warm and painful. In case of reaction, refer to PHC Medical Officer.

#### 8. How to Monitor

- Visit the patient under treatment every month to ensure about the drugs taken by checking the MDT packet.
- if treatment taken is irregular or discontinued. Refer him/her to medical Officer PHC to restart the treatment and ascertain the reasons.

#### 9. How to do Self-care practices

- Soak the hands/feet for about ½ hour in water
- Apply cooking oil when hands/feet are wet.
- Protect hand against heat and friction.
- Use MCR footwear for anesthetic feet and work slowly with short step.
- Clean the wound with soap and water. Dress with clean cloth.
- Check eyes daily using mirror.

#### 10. What is the Job chart for ASHA

- Refer suspected leprosy case to PHC
- Follow up treatment taken by the case
- Counsel patient on the disease and treatment aspect on confirmation
- Awareness & Education through Inter Personal Communication (IPC).
- Guiding patient on self-care
- Facilitate healthy contact examination
- Take part in special campaigns