

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


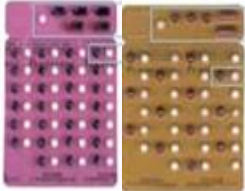
4. Is leprosy curable?

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
PB case -6 monthly doses (to be completed with in 9 months)	 PB (Ad) PB (Ch)
MB case - 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