



FEDERAL MINISTRY OF HEALTH
NATIONAL AIDS & STIs CONTROL PROGRAMME (NASCP)

Rapid Advice

3rd Line Antiretroviral Therapy Switch in Nigeria

FEBRUARY 2022

1.0. Introduction

The goal of management of antiretroviral treatment failure is to achieve virologic suppression, defined as attainment of reduction in viral load to value below the detection limit of the assay platform less than 20 copies/ml.

The selection of regimen capable of achieving this goal of virologic re-suppression should contain at least two new fully active antiretroviral drugs but preferably three. To guide this selection, HIV drug-resistance test (HIV DR) report should be obtained. However, in Nigeria a programmatic dilemma has arisen because there are limited and weak resources for HIV drug resistance assay to cater for the number of PLHIV who require the test.

Therefore, the National programme proposes operation research to resolve this dilemma. In this programmatic operation research, 2nd line treatment failure is defined as viral load between 1000 and 10,000 copies/ml measured at least 3 months apart while on therapy. This criterium shall be adopted to identify who should be prioritized for third line regimen in the absence HIV resistance test. When resources become available all individuals failing second line regimen should have HIV DR resistance test according the National guidelines.

2. Rationale for this Rapid Advice

This rapid advice provides justification for switching to third line ART in the absence of HIV Drug resistant testing.

3. The Advice

The following criteria should be used to prioritize clients failing second-line regimen in the absence of HIV DR testing.

1. Patients should have been on 2nd line ART regimen for at least 1 year.
2. Viral load between 1000 and 10,000 copies/ml measured at least 3 months apart while on therapy.
3. ARV drug adherence of >95%.
4. Facility switch committee should have confirmed eligibility for 3rd line regimen switch
5. National third line switch request form is filled and scanned to FMOH (NASCP)/ third line switch committee.



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