

No. T-11020/86/2006-NACO (ART)  
Government of India  
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare  
National AIDS Control Organisation

9<sup>th</sup> Floor, Chandralok Building,  
36 Janpath, New Delhi - 11001.  
Dated: 24 June-2016

Office Memorandum

**Subject: Revised guidelines on initiation of Antiretroviral Therapy (ART)**

In reference to above subject and in supersession of existing guidelines on initiation of ART in adults and adolescents living with HIV/AIDS, the revised guidelines on initiation of ART are as follows:

WHO Clinical Staging	Recommendations*
<b>HIV infected Adults &amp; Adolescents and children more than five years of age</b>	
WHO Clinical Stage I and II	Start ART if CD4 $\leq$ 500 cells/cmm *
WHO Clinical Stage III and IV	Start ART <b>regardless</b> of CD4 count
<b>All Children below five years of age</b>	
Any clinical stage	Start ART <b>regardless</b> of CD4 count
<b>All pregnant / breast feeding women</b>	
Any clinical Stage, any trimester of pregnancy	Start ART <b>regardless</b> of CD4 count as soon as pregnancy is detected
<b>HIV-TB co-infected patients</b>	
Patients with HIV and TB co-infection (Pulmonary or Extra Pulmonary) / Patients with past history of TB	Start ART <b>regardless</b> of CD4 count <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Start ATT first; initiate ART as early as possible between 2 weeks-2months.</li> <li>• For patients with CD4 below 50 cells/cmm, start ART simultaneously with ATT, with strict clinical and laboratory monitoring</li> </ul>
<b>HIV-Hepatitis B/C co-infected patients</b>	
HIV and HBV / HCV co-infection - without any evidence of severe chronic liver disease	Start ART if CD4 $\leq$ 500 cells/cmm
HIV and HBV / HCV co-infection - with evidence of severe chronic liver disease	Start ART <b>regardless</b> of CD4 count
<b>HIV-Visceral Leishmaniasis (Kala-Azar) co-infected patients</b>	
Patients with HIV-Visceral Leishmaniasis co-infected / Patients with past history of Visceral Leishmaniasis	Start ART <b>regardless</b> of CD4 count

\* Patients in Pre ART care with latest CD4 between 350-500 cells/cmm should undergo a fresh CD4 count and baseline investigations to decide eligibility as per revised guidelines and if found eligible should undergo at least two sessions of preparedness counselling as per existing practice before initiation of ART.

The Guidelines on regimen to be used remain the same as per OM No. T-11020/86/2006-NACO (ART) dated 11-Nov-2014

  
 Dr. R S Gupta 24/06/20  
 Deputy Director General (CST)

**To:**  
The Project Director, All State AIDS Control Societies  
**Copy to:**  
Programme Directors of CoE/ pCoE, Nodal Officer, All ART Centres  
 JD (CST) / Officer In Charge (CST), All SACS  
 All Regional Coordinators  
**Copy for information to:**  
 PPS to AS, NACO