International Council of Nurses receives innovative grant from Stop TB Partnership to Find and Treat More People with TB

6 June 2018; Geneva, Switzerland – The International Council of Nurses (ICN) has received a grant from the Stop TB Partnership’s highly competitive TB REACH mechanism to support development of the ICN Nursing Guide for Managing Side Effects to Drug-resistant TB Treatment.

The Stop TB Partnership received over 570 applications and selected only 42 (7%) for funding. TB REACH, a multi-lateral funding mechanism primarily supported by Global Affairs Canada, with additional funding from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, will fund 42 projects in 28 countries with USD17 million. These grants fund cutting-edge interventions in TB case finding and care and will improve diagnosis, treatment and support for people with TB.

The ICN guide was developed by nurses with experience in the clinical care and programmatic management of tuberculosis (TB) and drug-resistant tuberculosis (DR-TB) in both high- and low-resource settings. Nursing and DR-TB literature were reviewed to establish best practice nursing assessment and intervention guidance. Nurses caring for patients with DR-TB field tested the job aid and provided feedback which was used to inform final content and format.

Patients on treatment for drug resistant tuberculosis (DR-TB) face many challenges, most notably difficult side effects such as nausea, hearing loss and fatigue that may impact the patient’s quality of life, capacity to work and ability to continue activities of daily living. Recent studies have identified medication side effects as a major factor for patients stopping treatment prematurely. The 2016 WHO Global TB Report noted a continued crisis related to treatment outcomes for multi-drug resistant TB with only 52% of patients successfully completing treatment in 2013.

“ICN is delighted to receive this funding from the Stop TB Partnership which demonstrates the critical role of nurses in the prevention, care and treatment of TB,” said Dr Carrie Tudor, Director of ICN’s TB/MDR-TB project. "The guide is a practical resource
for nurses in inpatient, clinic and community settings which can be used by other cadre of clinicians who are caring for MDR-TB patients.”

Nurses are frequently the first point of contact a patient will have when seeking healthcare and are the main cadre of health professionals worldwide delivering and/or overseeing a patient’s daily directly observed treatment. Often the first to hear of a patient’s side effect(s) during TB treatment and therefore, nurses are well positioned to intervene. In response to requests from nurses for additional nursing practice resource tools, this guide was developed to help nurses assess for and respond appropriately to side effects related to anti-TB medications. The guide is designed as a reference so nurses can quickly:

1. Identify symptoms that may indicate an anti-TB or anti-retroviral medication-related side effect;
2. Assess for severity as well as other potential contributors; and
3. Intervene appropriately in order to minimize patient discomfort, reduce side effect progression, and ultimately support successful treatment completion.

TB REACH is funded by Global Affairs Canada. Additional financing is provided by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Indonesian Health Fund. TB REACH evaluates and finances innovative projects designed to improve detection and treatment of TB. Since its inception in 2010, TB REACH has awarded USD127 million in grants to 222 projects in 51 countries worldwide. For more information on TB REACH, please visit: http://www.stoptb.org/global/awards/tbreach/

ICN’s TB(MDR-TB project aims to build global nursing capacity in the prevention, care and treatment of TB. This is achieved by training experienced nurses to cascade information to nursing colleagues and other health workers with the purpose of making improvements to patient care delivery.

Note for Editors
The International Council of Nurses (ICN) is a federation of more than 130 national nurses associations representing the millions of nurses worldwide. Operated by nurses and leading nursing internationally, ICN works to ensure quality care for all and sound health policies globally.

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