# GUIDELINE

## ALTERNATIVE MASS DRUG ADMINISTRATION REGIMENS TO ELIMINATE LYMPHATIC FILARIASIS

World Health Organization

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## Alternative mass drug administration regimens to eliminate lymphatic filariasis

Guideline: alternative mass drug administration regimens to eliminate lymphatic filariasis

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## Abbreviations

| | |
|---|---|
| AE | adverse event |
| *Brugia* spp. | *Brugia malayi* and *Brugia timori* species |
| CFA | circulating filarial antigen |
| DA | diethylcarbamazine (citrate) plus albendazole |
| FTS | Filariasis Test Strip (Alere, Scarborough, ME, USA) |
| GPELF | Global Programme to Eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis |
| GRADE | Grading of Recommendations Assessment, Development and Evaluation |
| IA | ivermectin plus albendazole |
| ICT | immunochromatographic test (BinaxNOW Filariasis ICT, Alere, USA) |
| IDA | ivermectin plus diethylcarbamazine (citrate) plus albendazole |
| IgG4 | IgG4 antibody to BmR1 antigen of *Brugia* species |
| IU | implementation unit |
| LF | lymphatic filariasis |
| MDA | mass drug administration |
| PICO | population, intervention, comparator and outcome |
| pre-TAS | pre-transmission assessment survey |
| RCT | randomized controlled trial |
| SAE | serious adverse event |
| TAS | transmission assessment survey |
| WHO | World Health Organization |

## Glossary

The definitions given below apply to the terms as used in this guideline. They may have different meanings in other contexts and WHO documents. An asterisk (*) next to terms denotes definition of outcomes assessed in the development of recommendations.

**adverse event (AE) following mass drug administration (MDA)***
A medical incident occurring after mass drug administration that is suspected to be but is not necessarily caused by the medicines used in the intervention. Some AEs, after investigation, may be found to have been caused by the medicine and are also referred to as adverse drug reactions or side-effects.

*Note*: AEs are often categorized by severity in clinical studies. While the grade of severity may vary, the following classifications were used for the outcomes reviewed in these comparisons:

- Grade 1 – a mild adverse event that does not interfere with work or school;
- Grade 2 – a moderate adverse event that interferes with work or school for at least 1 day;
- Grade 3 – a severe and undesirable adverse event that interferes with the activities of daily living and requires medical assessment;
- Grade 4 – a potentially life-threatening or disabling adverse event that requires medical evaluation and a serious adverse event report; and
- Grade 5 – a catastrophic adverse event that causes death.

During the process of formulating the recommendations, the following designations were given to the outcomes of adverse event and serious adverse event:

- Critical – serious adverse events (Grade 4 and 5), adverse events (Grade 3 and 4) and adverse events (Grade 2 to 4) in communities with no prior MDA;
- Important – adverse events (Grade 2 to 4) among microfilaraemic persons, any adverse events in microfilaraemic persons and adverse events (Grade 2); and
- Not important – any adverse event not addressed above.

**antibody**
A protein produced by the human immune system in response to a foreign substance (antigen) to fight off infection. An antibody reacts specifically with the antigen that triggered its formation and its function