



# 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
<i>Brugia</i> spp.	<i>Brugia malayi</i> and <i>Brugia timori</i> 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 <i>Brugia</i> 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

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