

1 **Whole genome sequencing has the potential to improve treatment for rifampicin-resistant**
2 **tuberculosis in high burden settings: a retrospective cohort study**

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33

34 **Abstract**

35 **Background**

36 Treatment of multidrug-resistant or rifampicin-resistant tuberculosis (MDR/RR-TB), although
37 improved in recent years with shorter, more tolerable regimens, remains largely standardised and
38 based on limited drug susceptibility testing (DST). More individualised treatment with expanded DST
39 access is likely to improve patient outcomes.

40 **Methods**

41 To assess the potential of TB drug resistance prediction based on whole genome sequencing (WGS)
42 to provide more effective treatment regimens, we applied current South African treatment
43 recommendations to a retrospective cohort of MDR/RR-TB patients from Khayelitsha, Cape Town.
44 Routine DST and clinical data were used to retrospectively categorise patients into a recommended
45 regimen, either a standardised short regimen or a longer individualised regimen. Potential regimen
46 changes were then described with the addition of WGS-derived DST.

47 **Findings**

48 WGS data were available for 1274 MDR/RR-TB patient treatment episodes across 2008-2017. Among
49 834 patients initially eligible for the shorter regimen, 385 (46%) may have benefited from reduced
50 drug dosage or removing ineffective drugs when WGS data were considered. A further 187 (22%)
51 may have benefited from more effective adjusted regimens. Among 440 patients initially eligible for
52 a longer individualised regimen, 153 (35%) could have been switched to the short regimen. Overall,
53 305 (24%) patients had MDR/RR-TB with second-line TB drug resistance, where the availability of
54 WGS-derived DST would have allowed more effective treatment individualisation.

55 **Interpretation**

56 These data suggest considerable benefits could accrue from routine access to WGS-derived
57 resistance prediction. Advances in culture-free sequencing and expansion of the reference resistance
58 mutation catalogue will increase the utility of WGS resistance prediction.

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63 Introduction

64 The last several years have seen radical changes in the way that persons living with multidrug-
65 resistant or rifampicin-resistant tuberculosis (MDR/RR-TB) are treated for their disease.(1) In the
66 past, recommended therapeutic regimens lasted 18 to 24 months, included multiple medications
67 with a high pill burden, and relied on toxic yet ineffective injectable agents leading to a global
68 success rate of just over 50%.(2) More recently, however, the World Health Organization (WHO) has
69 recommended shorter, all-oral regimens, based on newer and repurposed drugs such as
70 bedaquiline, linezolid and clofazimine, for a majority of patients newly diagnosed with MDR/RR-
71 TB.(3)

72 While the use of all-oral regimens lasting 9-12 months has the potential to revolutionize the
73 treatment of MDR/RR-TB, few countries have moved to implement them on a programmatic
74 level.(4) Those that have done so tend to recommend a “standardized” all-oral shorter regimen for
75 those meeting certain eligibility criteria, based on previous treatment history, and limited drug
76 susceptibility testing (DST) results.(5, 6) Those ineligible for the standardized short regimen often
77 receive a longer, all-oral regimen. Although eligibility criteria differ, most programmes exclude from
78 shorter therapy individuals whose *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* (*Mtb*) strains have documented
79 fluoroquinolone resistance or those whose strains may be at risk for fluoroquinolone resistance
80 (including patients with previous exposure to second-line anti-tuberculosis medications),
81 documented resistance to injectable agents, extensive pulmonary disease, and factors that may
82 predict more extensive second-line resistance, for example the presence of both the *inhA* and *katG*
83 mutations conferring isoniazid resistance in South Africa (based on unpublished surveillance data).

84 There are several challenges with this approach. First, factors associated with fluoroquinolone
85 resistance do not correlate with actual resistance in many instances, which could lead to excluding
86 patients who would benefit from shortened treatment regimens as well as including patients who
87 are unlikely to be successfully treated.(7) Second, the standardized all-oral shorter regimen
88 recommended by WHO includes multiple drugs that are unlikely to be effective for many patients
89 with MDR/RR-TB; including isoniazid, pyrazinamide, ethambutol, and ethionamide, which
90 significantly add to the pill burden and toxicity of treatment.(3, 8) Finally, patients needing to receive
91 a longer individualized regimen, which uses core backbone drugs with additional agents added as
92 needed according to an evidence-based, WHO-specified rank order(3), often require a more
93 comprehensive drug susceptibility profile to guide regimen construction. Limited DST in these
94 circumstances could lead to inclusion of ineffective drugs and exclusion of effective drugs making
95 treatment less effective, more toxic, and challenging to complete.(9) Less effective treatment can

96 also lead to the generation of additional resistance mutations and transmission of drug-resistant
97 tuberculosis.(10)

98 Whole genome sequencing (WGS), where all known resistance-conferring mutations are identified
99 simultaneously, is increasingly being used to provide comprehensive DST to individualise MDR/RR-TB
100 treatment in well-resourced settings.(11, 12) In support, WHO has released technical guidance on
101 the use of next-generation sequencing to infer *Mtb* drug resistance(13), and more recently released
102 a catalogue of mutations conferring *Mtb* drug resistance, which will be updated regularly as more
103 data emerges.(14) However, WGS-derived DST profiles do not necessarily need to be used to fully
104 individualise treatment. In high burden settings, concerns about the clinical expertise required to
105 provide fully individualised regimens for MDR/RR-TB potentially limit implementation.(13, 15) South
106 Africa currently recommends a standardized treatment approach utilising a shorter, all-oral regimen
107 for MDR/RR-TB.(6) In order to demonstrate how WGS-derived DST may be used to provide more
108 appropriate and effective treatment within a semi-standardised treatment algorithm, we
109 retrospectively assessed potential regimen changes indicated by WGS for a large cohort of MDR/RR-
110 TB patients diagnosed in Khayelitsha, Cape Town, South Africa.

111

112 **Methods**

113 ***Study design***

114 This analysis applied current treatment recommendations to a retrospective cohort of MDR/RR-TB
115 patients diagnosed between 2008 and 2017 in Khayelitsha, a sub-district in Cape Town. Khayelitsha
116 has a population of approximately 450,000, with high burdens of HIV, TB and MDR/RR-TB. A detailed
117 prospective clinical database was established in Khayelitsha to evaluate a decentralised programme
118 to diagnose and treat RR-TB from late 2007 onwards.(16) Anonymised clinical data was linked to
119 WGS data derived from stored *Mtb* isolates held in a biobank at Stellenbosch University. Ethical
120 approval for collection of *Mtb* isolates in the biobank was granted by the Stellenbosch University
121 Research Ethics Committee and approval for linking WGS data to clinical data was granted by the
122 University of Cape Town Human Research Ethics Committee. All patients routinely diagnosed with
123 MDR/RR-TB between 2008 and 2017 and with pre-treatment (defined as up to 1 month after
124 second-line treatment initiation) *Mtb* isolate WGS data available were included in the study cohort.

125

126 ***Current South African MDR/RR-TB treatment guidance***

127 The standardised short (9-12 month) regimen for MDR/RR-TB in South Africa is composed of an
128 intensive phase of 4-6 months duration containing; bedaquiline (minimum 6 months), linezolid (2
129 months), high-dose isoniazid, levofloxacin, clofazimine, pyrazinamide and ethambutol. The 5-month
130 continuation phase is composed of levofloxacin, clofazimine, pyrazinamide and ethambutol. If
131 patients' *Mtb* strains develop resistance or if the patients develop intolerance to pyrazinamide,
132 ethambutol or isoniazid, these drugs can be removed from the regimen without replacement. If
133 more than one drug is removed, either bedaquiline or linezolid treatment is lengthened.

134 Patients who do not qualify for a short regimen are offered a long 18-20 month regimen with a 6-8
135 month intensive phase containing five drugs, and a continuation phase containing four drugs.
136 Exclusion criteria for the standardised short regimen include: prior exposure to > 1-month second-
137 line TB treatment; complicated extrapulmonary TB (EPTB); close contact with XDR-TB (based on the
138 pre-2021 definition of MDR-TB with both fluoroquinolone and second-line injectable resistance) or
139 pre-XDR (MDR-TB with either fluoroquinolone or second-line injectable resistance); age <6 years;
140 extensive TB disease on chest X-ray; the presence of both *katG* and *inhA* isoniazid resistance-
141 conferring mutations; and suspected or confirmed resistance to fluoroquinolones, injectable agents,
142 bedaquiline, clofazimine or linezolid. Patients fulfilling any one of these criteria receive an
143 individualised long regimen.(6) Drugs are chosen according to WHO guidance, starting with
144 categories A and B; with drug choice dependent on available DST, contra-indications and location of
145 disease.(6)

146 Currently, all individuals under investigation for pulmonary TB are tested with Xpert MTB/RIF Ultra
147 (Xpert, Cepheid, Sunnyvale, CA, USA), and culture if Xpert is negative for individuals living with HIV. If
148 rifampicin-resistance is detected, a first-line line probe assay (LPA, Hain Lifescience MTBDR*plus*,
149 Tübingen, Germany) is used for isoniazid DST. If isoniazid susceptibility is demonstrated by LPA,
150 phenotypic INH DST is conducted on a cultured specimen (allowing for confirmation of rifampicin
151 resistance). A second-line LPA (Hain Lifescience, Nehren, Germany, MTBDR*s*) is used to detect
152 resistance to fluoroquinolones and second-line injectables, with isolates that test susceptible
153 subjected to phenotypic fluoroquinolone (levofloxacin) DST. Isolates with fluoroquinolone resistance
154 are subjected to extended DST to a wider range of second-line drugs, including bedaquiline and
155 linezolid. All DST conducted programmatically, both phenotypic and genotypic, is referred to as
156 routine DST. Rifampicin mono-resistant TB (RMR-TB) was defined as rifampicin resistance and
157 isoniazid susceptibility.

158

159 **Whole genome sequencing**

160 Stored *Mtb* isolates were re-cultured for DNA extraction. WGS was performed on libraries prepared
161 from purified genomic DNA using Illumina Nextera® XT library and NEBNext® Ultra TM II FS DNA
162 Library Prep Kits. Sequencing was performed using the Illumina HiSeq 2500 or NextSeq 500
163 platforms. Raw FASTQ WGS data with a minimum coverage depth of 20x of the *Mtb* H37Rv
164 reference genome, were analysed using TBProfiler (command line, version 2.8.12) to determine *Mtb*
165 drug resistance-conferring mutations.(17)

166

167 **Data analysis**

168 Clinical and laboratory data pertaining to the exclusion criteria for the standardised short regimen
169 were extracted from the routine database. Data were available for: previous second-line TB
170 treatment, routinely diagnosed second-line drug resistance (fluoroquinolones and injectable agents),
171 age, the presence of extrapulmonary disease and the presence of both isoniazid resistance-
172 conferring mutations (*katG* and *inhA*). Data were not available for situations where second-line
173 resistance was suspected, extensive disease on X-ray, or complicated EPTB. While EPTB was
174 recorded on the clinical database, the disease site was not consistently recorded. Therefore, all EPTB
175 was considered as complicated, with consequent exclusion from the standardised short regimen.
176 Data on the presence of isoniazid resistance-conferring mutations, derived routinely from the LPA,
177 was also not consistently available. Where routine mutation data was missing, mutation data based
178 on WGS were used instead. These data, related to the exclusion criteria, were used to categorise
179 patients as receiving either the currently recommended standardised short or longer individualized
180 regimen.

181 Final DST profiles were derived from a combination of both routine and WGS-based DST results,
182 where resistance on any test was categorised as likely resistance, i.e. in the case of discordance
183 between routine and WGS-based DST, a conservative approach of assuming resistance was taken.
184 Final DST profiles were then used to determine the appropriateness of initial categorisation into the
185 standard shorter regimen and the longer individualised regimen and to describe how treatment
186 regimens might change based on the current South African guidance, were WGS-derived resistance
187 profiles available to the treating clinician, in addition to routine DST.

188

189 **Results**

190 **Cohort description**

191 WGS data from pre-treatment *Mtb* isolate WGS data were available for 1274 patient treatment
192 episodes between 2008 and 2017 inclusive. The mean read depth at drug resistance-conferring sites
193 was 82 (95% confidence interval 79-85). There were no major differences between patients with
194 WGS data available and those without, as previously described.(18) Among these patient episodes,
195 897 (70.4%) were HIV positive, 593 (46.5%) female, and second-line treatment was initiated in 1162
196 (91.2%).

197 If this cohort were to be treated under current treatment recommendations, the most common
198 reason for exclusion from the standardised short regimen would have been demonstrated resistance
199 to a fluoroquinolone or a second-line injectable (Table 1). Overall, 834 (65.5%) patient episodes
200 would have been eligible for the standardised short regimen.

201

202 ***Regimen changes based on merged routine and WGS-derived resistance profiles***

203 There was considerable discordance between DST profiles based on WGS and those from routine
204 diagnosis (Table 2). Overall, 104 (8.2%) isolates had no rifampicin resistance detected on WGS.
205 Notably, fluoroquinolone resistance was detected in an additional 24 isolates using WGS. Based on
206 final (merged routine and WGS-derived DST) profiles, 254 (19.9%) patients were classified as having
207 RMR-TB, 822 (64.5%) had MDR-TB without fluoroquinolone resistance and 198 (15.5%) had MDR-TB
208 with fluoroquinolone resistance (Table 3).

209 Figure 1 indicates potential regimen changes for patients who would have been treated with the
210 standardised short regimen (under current treatment guidelines) given the additional DST data
211 provided by WGS. Overall, 197 (23.6%) patients had RMR-TB (isoniazid susceptible RR-TB) and could
212 potentially have received the standard isoniazid dose. A further 262 (31.4%) would not have
213 required any change to the short, standardised regimen. However, 188 (22.5%) patients had
214 evidence of either ethambutol or pyrazinamide resistance and could potentially have had these
215 drugs removed from the standardised regimen. The standardised short regimen may have been
216 compromised for the 169 (20.3%) patients with both ethambutol and pyrazinamide resistance; these
217 patients would have benefited from changes to the regimen as per national guidance. Finally, 18
218 (2.2%) patients would have needed to be switched to a longer individualised regimen, due to
219 additional fluoroquinolone resistance (not detected routinely).

220 Among the 440 patients who would not have been eligible for the short regimen, 153 (34.8%) could
221 potentially have received the shorter regimen (Figure 2). These are patients who did not have EPTB,
222 were aged above 6 years and did not have resistance to the fluoroquinolones, bedaquiline, linezolid

223 or clofazimine (the key agents in the short regimen). Additionally, all 153 patients could potentially
224 have had ethambutol removed from the short regimen due to demonstrated resistance. Among the
225 322 patients who would have been excluded from the short regimen based on presence of both
226 isoniazid resistance-conferring mutations or previous second-line TB treatment, only 169 (52.5%)
227 actually had MDR/RR-TB with fluoroquinolone resistance.

228

229 Discussion

230 These data demonstrate that a significant proportion of MDR/RR-TB patients may benefit from more
231 appropriate treatment regimens with access to expanded DST through WGS, even in a setting with
232 relatively high access to routine line probe assay and phenotypic DST. Among patients who would
233 have been eligible for the short regimen, 46% may have had their regimen adjusted through
234 reducing dosage or removing ineffective drugs. A further 22% may have benefited from regimens
235 that were adjusted to provide more effective treatment. Importantly, a third of patients not eligible
236 for the short regimen could potentially have been re-allocated to the shorter regimen, with
237 substantial patient benefits. These data also demonstrate that more complete DST data could be
238 incorporated into an algorithmic approach to regimen allocation, such as that currently followed in
239 South Africa, without adding significant complexity for clinicians in high MDR/RR-TB burden settings.
240 They also show the potential importance of WGS data for providing information on resistance to
241 medications such as ethambutol and pyrazinamide that are not commonly assessed in high burden
242 settings such as South Africa.

243 Overall, just over a fifth of all patients may be considered to have more complicated MDR/RR-TB
244 requiring more individualised treatment. This includes young children, patients with EPTB and those
245 with *M. tuberculosis* strains that have fluoroquinolone resistance. Fluoroquinolone resistance is
246 strongly associated with poor treatment outcomes(19), and remains a key drug for MDR/RR-TB
247 treatment.(3) For these patients, the addition of detailed DST through WGS could enable the
248 construction of more individualised regimens, as is the norm in low burden, high resource
249 settings.(20)

250 There are a number of challenges for the implementation of WGS for patient treatment in high
251 burden settings.(15, 21) These include cost, laboratory infrastructure and appropriate bioinformatics
252 skills. These challenges may be feasible to overcome as demonstrated by recent experience in the
253 Kyrgyz Republic.(22) Accurate prediction of drug resistance from genomic data is also a challenge
254 across all settings. The latter is increasingly being addressed through curation of large, globally

255 derived datasets describing associations between mutations and phenotypic resistance that have
256 informed the recent WHO catalogue of resistance-conferring mutations.(14) There are, however,
257 gaps in this catalogue, particularly for new and repurposed drugs such as bedaquiline, delamanid
258 and linezolid. In this current dataset no mutations known to confer resistance to these drugs were
259 identified with TBProfiler. This was likely due to the small number of included patients with prior use
260 of these drugs, with most of these returning to treatment after prior loss to follow up. However, as
261 use of these drugs expands, it is likely that both resistance to these drugs and knowledge of genomic
262 predictors of resistance will also increase. Drug resistance prediction from sequencing data is also
263 becoming increasingly accessible with newer tools.(23)

264 MDR/RR-TB treatment, while much improved, remains lengthy and difficult to adhere to for patients
265 with concomitant poor overall patient outcomes.(1, 24) Globally, only 57% of patients who started
266 treatment in 2017 were successfully treated and at least 16% of patients did not complete the full
267 treatment course. Reducing pill burden and removing ineffective, and therefore unnecessary, drugs
268 that are often associated with adverse events is therefore likely to improve regimen tolerability and
269 therefore treatment completion.(25) Additionally, increasing the proportion of patients who can be
270 treated with shorter, more tolerable regimens is likely to have significant benefits. Individuals with
271 rifampicin-resistant but isoniazid susceptible disease (RMR-TB) are a particular patient group that
272 may benefit significantly from more detailed DST. We have previously demonstrated, using this
273 dataset, that resistance to TB drugs other than rifampicin and isoniazid differs considerably between
274 isolates categorised as RMR-TB and MDR-TB.(18) The data presented here confirm that patients
275 presenting with RMR-TB have RR-TB with very little resistance to other drugs. Given that RMR-TB
276 composed approximately 20% of all patient episodes in this setting, and 22% of MDR/RR-TB
277 globally(24), there may be significant potential to simplify or shorten treatment for this group.

278 Currently, WGS is predominantly performed on DNA isolated from cultured *Mtb* isolates and is
279 therefore subject to the same delays as for *Mtb* culture as a diagnostic tool. However, experience
280 has demonstrated that replacing a series of molecular diagnostic tests with WGS resulted in shorter
281 turnaround times.(11) Encouragingly, there is now evidence that culture-free sequencing directly
282 from specimens may be feasible (at least for sputum smear positive patients) and could result in
283 rapid actionable results.(26-28)Indeed culture-free sequencing could provide complete DST profiles
284 upfront, allowing for the initiation of more appropriate treatment regimens from the start, and
285 reducing the risks of multiple changes to regimens as more DST results become available.

286 Among the limitations of this study was the considerable discordance in rifampicin susceptibility
287 detected by WGS and that from routine DST , with 9% of sequenced isolates predicting rifampicin

288 susceptibility. There are several potential explanations for this, including the capacity of sequencing
289 to detect heteroresistance which is highly dependent on the depth of coverage obtained and the
290 cut-off percentages of resistance-conferring mutations used to predict resistance. Additionally,
291 mixed strain infections, where drug-susceptible strains outgrow more resistant strains in culture,
292 may result in discordance.(29) Discordant DST results are relatively common and can be difficult for
293 clinicians to interpret.(30) In this analysis we employed a conservative approach where any
294 resistance, either detected through routine diagnostic testing or predicted through WGS, was
295 classified as resistance. While such an approach can simplify DST interpretation, discordant
296 rifampicin DST on routine testing could prompt additional clinical assessment and is an area where
297 additional research into causative factors is warranted. A further potential limitation is the reliance
298 on Xpert MTB/RIF for RR-TB diagnosis; while Ultra is more sensitive than its predecessor, both tests
299 are less sensitive than TB culture performed for all individuals with presumptive TB. Finally, use of
300 the more recent updated catalogue of resistance-conferring mutations may have reduced
301 discordance and potentially identified resistance to some of the newer or repurposed drugs.

302 We considered some of the key factors used to allocate treatment regimens based on the South
303 African guidance. However, there are several other factors considered by clinicians in deciding
304 treatment regimens, including drug intolerance, heightened risk of adverse events associated with
305 particular drugs, extent of disease, HIV treatment regimens and patient preference. In addition, we
306 did not consider pre-treatment laboratory tests such as those for anaemia and hepatic or renal
307 function. Low haemoglobin levels are a relatively common exclusion criteria for the short regimen as
308 these patients are likely not to tolerate linezolid. However, more comprehensive DST may enable
309 patients with moderate or severe anaemia to continue a short regimen that excludes linezolid. Our
310 analysis was therefore not intended to provide definitive treatment regimens for individual patients.
311 Additionally, there are multiple shorter regimens, other than that used in South Africa, being
312 considered for routine use or use under operational research conditions that do not contain
313 isoniazid, pyrazinamide, and/or ethambutol, including the Nix-TB regimen, the ZeNIX-TB regimen,
314 the endTB regimens, the PRACTECAL regimen, and the NEXT TB regimen.(31) As a result, we may
315 have over-estimated the potential clinical benefit of WGS. It is important to note, however, that
316 almost all the all-oral shorter regimens being assessed for MDR/RR-TB rely on fluoroquinolone
317 resistance as a key inclusion/exclusion criterion and that identification of pre-existing resistance to
318 included drugs will become even more relevant as use (and therefore resistance) increases. Our
319 findings therefore point to the continued potential benefits of WGS as newer treatment regimens
320 are introduced.

321 Despite these limitations, these data from a very large patient cohort suggest that a significant
322 proportion of patients would benefit from access to more detailed DST through WGS. While the
323 observed discordance may preclude WGS completely replacing routine DST at this point, targeted
324 sequencing may enable culture-free testing direct from specimens, providing more timely and
325 accurate drug resistance prediction. In this study setting, many MDR/RR-TB patients are treated in
326 primary care; this raises questions as to what types of support they might need to optimize the
327 information received through WGS. These implementation questions can be addressed in further
328 research. South Africa has already invested in WGS for management of MDR/RR-TB, which is
329 currently performed at the National Health Laboratory Services National TB Laboratory upon
330 specimen referral. For scale up to occur, capacity is required at a provincial level and a standardised
331 method for reporting results is needed.

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342 treatment for them.

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344 The study funders had no role in the design and conduct of the study, the analysis and interpretation
345 of data, or in the preparation, review, or approval of the manuscript.

346

347 **Data sharing**

348 All sequencing data is available via online repository (European Nucleotide Archive) under accession
349 number PRJEB45389. A limited deidentified dataset containing patient-level data will also be made
350 available on publication (<https://datadryad.org/stash>).

351

352

353

354 **Tables**

355

356 Table 1: Presence of exclusion criteria for the standardised short regimen. Note that individual
357 patient episodes may have more than one exclusion criteria.

Exclusion Criteria	N (%)
None	834 (65.5%)
At least one exclusion criteria	440 (34.5%)
Resistance to FLQ and/or INJ on routine DST	242 (19.0%)
Both INH resistance-conferring mutations (<i>katG</i> and <i>inhA</i>)	196 (15.4%)
EPTB	113 (8.9%)
Previous second-line TB treatment > 1 month	60 (4.7%)
Age < 6 years	7 (0.5%)

358

359 Abbreviations: FLQ = fluoroquinolone; INJ = second-line injectable; DST = drug susceptibility testing;
360 EPTB = extrapulmonary TB.

361

362

363 Table 2: Differences (N) between routine MDR/RR-TB diagnostic classification and WGS-derived
364 resistance profiles.

365

WGS-derived resistance profile	Routine drug resistance profile						Total
	RR-TB*	RMR-TB	MDR- TB**	PreXDR- FLQ	PreXDR INJ	XDR-TB	
RS-TB	5	32	63	1	2	1	104
RMR-TB		225	12	0	0	1	238
MDR-TB		9	654	6	11	1	681
PreXDR-FLQ			23	64	1	10	98
PreXDR INJ		1	11	0	48	3	63
XDR-TB			2	14	10	64	90
Total	5	267	765	85	72	80	1274

366 *Diagnosed on Xpert MTB/RIF only (no further DST), **Routine second-line DST not available for all
367 MDR-TB patient episodes

368 Abbreviations: RS-TB = rifampicin-susceptible TB; RMR-TB = Rifampicin mono-resistant TB (defined
369 as rifampicin resistance and isoniazid susceptibility); PreXDR FLQ = MDR-TB plus fluoroquinolone
370 resistance; PreXDR INJ = MDR-TB plus second-line injectable resistance; XDR-TB = extensively drug-
371 resistant TB (defined as MDR-TB plus both fluoroquinolone and second-line injectable resistance).

372

373

374 Table 3: Final drug resistance profiles, based on merged routine and WGS data.

RMR-TB (n=254)	N	MDR-TB (FLQ susceptible) (N=822)	N	MDR-TB (FLQ resistant) (N=198)	N
R	244	RH	137	RHZES, FLQ, INJ, ETO	57
R, ETO	4	RH, ETO	122	RHZES, FLQ, ETO	36
R, INJ	3	RHZES, ETO	110	RHZE, FLQ, ETO	24
R, FLQ	1	RHZE, ETO	66	RHZES, FLQ, INJ, ETO, CYC	14
RE	1	RHZS, ETO	61	RHE, FLQ, ETO	9
RE, ETO	1	RHE, ETO	56	RHZS, FLQ, ETO	7
		RHZES, INJ, ETO	46	RHES, FLQ, INJ, ETO	6
		RHES	37	RHZE, FLQ, INJ, ETO	5
		RHZES	31	RHZE, FLQ, INJ, ETO, CYC	5
		RHE	29	RHZES, FLQ, INJ	5
		RHS, ETO	29	RHZES, FLQ, INJ ETO	5
		RHES, ETO	14	RHZE, FLQ, ETO, CYC	4
		RHZE	14	RHE, FLQ, INJ, ETO	3
		RHS	9	RH, FLQ, ETO	2
		RHZES, INJ, ETO, CYC	8	RHE, FLQ	2
		RHZS	8	RHES, FLQ	2
		RHZS, INJ, ETO	7	RHZE, FLQ, INJ ETO	2
		RHZ	6	RHZES, FLQ, ETO, CYC	2
		RHS, INJ, ETO	5	RHZES, FLQ, ETO, PAS	2
		RHZES, ETO, CYC	4	RH, FLQ	1
		RHZS, PAS	4	RH, FLQ, INJ	1
		RHE, INJ, ETO	3	RHES, FLQ, ETO	1
		RZ	3	RHZE, FLQ	1
		RH, INJ	2	RHZES, FLQ	1
		RHZ, ETO	2	RHZES, FLQ, INJ, ETO, PAS	1
		RHZE, INJ	2		
		RHES, INJ	1		
		RHZ, FLQ, INJ, ETO	1		
		RHZE, ETO, CYC	1		
		RHZE, INJ, ETO	1		

		RHZES, PAS	1		
		RZES	1		
		RZS, ETO	1		

375 Abbreviations: R=rifampicin; H=isoniazid; Z=pyrazinamide; E=ethambutol; S=streptomycin;

376 FLQ=fluoroquinolone; INJ=second-line injectable; ETO=ethionamide; CYC=cycloserine; PAS=para-

377 aminosallylic acid

378

379 **Figure legends**

380 Figure 1: Changes to treatment based on drug resistance profile (combined routine and WGS DST
381 data) for patients who would have been started on the standardised short regimen.

382 Figure 2: Changes to treatment based on drug resistance profile (combined routine and WGS DST
383 data) for patients who would have been treated with a longer individualised regimen.

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