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भारत सरकार
नीति आयोग, संसद मार्ग
नई दिल्ली-110 001
Government of India
NATIONAL INSTITUTION FOR TRANSFORMING INDIA
NITI Aayog, Parliament Street
New Delhi-110 001

DO No. 3(2)/2018-H&FW

Dated: 11th September, 2018

Dear Sir,

As you are aware, nearly 15 lakh people get detected with cancer every year in the country and the number is expected to be rising in the coming times. The National Health Policy 2017 squarely recognizes the need to halt and reverse the growing incidence of cancer and such chronic diseases through reinforcing public health care delivery system, based on decentralization of decision making in consonance with practical considerations and institutional capacity.

2. It is needless to emphasis here that timely detection, diagnosis and treatment are highly integral to strategies to prevent and control NCDs, as the latter is a major contributor to morbidity and mortality burden in the country. However challenges in addressing the care needs of cancer patients and cancer survivors are multiple and complex and demands for strengthening capacity for early detection, appropriate and timely treatment of cancer etc. Initiatives on capacity building, innovations in treatment and placement of care giving models based on appropriate training and support at district hospital networks, partnering and collaborating with credible cancer care support organizations, etc. are very much on solution side.

3. In this context, I am happy to introduce an affordable and decentralized model on strengthening cancer care delivery services at the district hospital network currently functioning in four Indian States. The instant model is steered by the renowned oncologist Dr Dinesh Pendharkar, President, Indian Society of Oncology and Immediate past chair of the International Affairs Committee of American Society of Clinical Oncology. The model is presently working in 125 districts in the States of Madhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan and Odisha.



एक कदम स्वच्छता की ओर

The intervention essentially involves *in situ* capacity building at district hospitals by training one medical officer and two staff nurses in various essential aspects of cancer and palliative care including chemotherapy. The operational guidelines issued by the State governments which have this model are enclosed herewith for your kind reference .

4. In this regard , I would like to convey that NITI Aayog is very keen to foster and strengthen cancer care delivery at District hospital level in all the NITI Aspirational Districts in your State. The programme implementation basically starts with training of a MBBS medical officer and two nurses from each Aspirational District for three weeks in Sarvodya Hospital, Faridabad, Haynana under the supervision of Dr. Pendharkar followed by a weeklong hands on training in District Hospital, Ujjain. MP under supervision of Dr CM Tripathi, State Nodal Officer for cancer, MP. However , the training for the nurses from each district will be for two weeks at District hospital, Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh. All the training activities will be undertaken on *pro bono* basis by Dr. Pendharkar, although TA/DA will have to be met by the sponsoring organisation.

5. In the above context, may I request you to kindly issue necessary directions to the concerned Medical Officers in the NITI Aspirational District to take benefit of this model and to operationalize the model in the districts as immediately as possible and preferably from 2nd October 2018. I am, also requesting Dr. Pendharkar and his team to kindly further liaise with you to clarify the concerns and clarification should you have ,if any, and to take the initiative forward.

Encl; as above

Warm regards

Yours sincerely


(Alok Kumar)

Shri Sanjay Kumar
Principal Secretary(Health),
Govt. of Bihar

Copy to:

1. Mission Director NHM, Govt. of Bihar
2. District Collector of **Sitamarhi/ Begusarai/ Sheikhpura/ Araria/ katihar**, State of Bihar
3. Prabhari Officer, Aspirational Districts. State of Bihar
4. Dr.Pendharkar,Oncologist-CancerSpecialist,Sarvodaya Hospital,Sector 8, Faridabad, Delhi

Also copy to:

1. Mr. Manoj Jalani, Additional Secretary and Mission Director NHM, MoHFW,GOI
2. Additional Chief Secretary (health), Govt. of Madhya Pradesh for kind information and necessary action in connection with facilitation of the training programme at district hospital Ujjain under the supervision of Dr. CM Tripathi.