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भारत सरकार
स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण विभाग
स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय
Government of India
Department of Health and Family Welfare
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
D.O.No.Secy.(HFW)/2022
10-01-2022

Dear Colleague,

A rise in Covid-19 cases accompanied by an increase in positivity rate is being witnessed in various parts of the Country. This rise, it appears, is being driven by the Variant of Concern (VoC) "Omicron" and the continued presence of another VoC "Delta" in large geographies across the Country. In this context, augmenting human resources, particularly Health Care Workers (HCWs) for Covid management assumes critical importance.

2. Therefore, the Union Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has issued two detailed Guidelines on 8th January, 2022 and 9th January, 2022 to all States/UTs regarding utilizing the services of final year MBBS students, Interns, Senior Residents, Junior Residents as well as B.Sc Nursing students (3rd and 4th year), M.Sc Nursing students (1st and 2nd year), etc. Copies of the relevant letters are *attached*.

3. During the second surge of Covid cases in the country, it was seen that the percentage of active cases that needed hospitalized care were in the range of 20-23 %. In the present surge, 5-10 % of active cases have needed hospitalization so far. The situation is dynamic and evolving, therefore, the need for hospitalization may also change rapidly. All States/UTs are advised to keep a daily watch on the situation of total number of active cases, cases under home isolation (for which detailed guidelines have been issued by the Ministry on 5th January, 2022), number of hospitalized cases, cases on oxygen beds, ICU beds and on ventilatory support. Based on this monitoring, requirement of Health Care Workers (HCWs) and their availability, health facility wise, must also be reviewed on a daily basis as was done during the second surge.

4. While various States/UTs have initiated steps for establishment of jumbo health facilities, field hospitals, temporary hospitals, etc., it must be appreciated that both infrastructure and human resources have their limitations. Therefore, it is important to conserve Healthcare Workers by initiating staggering wherever possible and by restricting elective procedures in the hospitals. It is also important to strictly follow the Advisory for managing Healthcare Workers working in Covid and Non-Covid areas of health care facilities issued by this Ministry on 9th January, 2022.

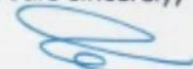
5. In addition to the aforesaid action, States/UTs may also consider following actions on a priority basis :-

a) Ear-marking different categories of beds in private clinical establishments for Covid care, in collaboration and active consultation with their management.

- b) It must also be ensured that the charges levied by such health facilities are reasonable and there is a mechanism to monitor and initiate action in instances of over-charging if any.
- c) Upgradation of Covid Care Centre (CCC) beds to Oxygen Supported Beds wherever required.
- d) Engagement of retired medical professionals or MBBS students for provision of Tele-consultation services.
- e) Skilling of community volunteers in basic care and management at Covid Care Centres (CCCs).
- f) Requisition additional Ambulances/Private vehicles to improve referral transport to facilitate seamless transfer of Covid-19 positive cases (whenever required) from home isolation or from Covid Care Centres (CCCs) to Covid Dedicated Hospitals.
- g) All District Hospitals and Medical College Hospitals at District headquarter level to be utilized as eSanjeevani Tele-Consultation hubs for providing e-OPD services and Tele-Consultation to patients at Community Health Centre (CHC) and Primary Health Centre (PHC) levels. Requisite financial resources for this have already been provided under ECRP-II to States/UTs.
- h) Simplified videos on management of Covid-19 cases and other capacity building videos and materials have been uploaded at iGOT and DIKSHA digital platforms. This information needs to be disseminated for an increased uptake by all HCWs on a priority basis.
- i) e-Consultation webinars for State and District level Intensivists, Critical Care Medicine Specialists and other Doctors managing Covid cases have been started by AIIMS, New Delhi. In addition various e-ICU modules have been also developed by States. All these must be leveraged appropriately for helping and skill upgradation of Healthcare Workers.
6. I am sure that under your effective leadership, States/UTs will be able to plan & implement comprehensive Human Resource Strategies to address the challenges posed by the Pandemic.

Warm Regards.

Yours sincerely,



(Rajesh Bhushan)

Encl.: as above