

# Cancer Control

According to WHO, every year 1 million Indians are diagnosed with cancer. Currently the doctor –patient ratio for cancer treatment is at 1:2000. The Health Ministry aims to take it to 1:1000 by 2021.

27 Regional Cancer Centres (RCCs) providing comprehensive cancer care services had been set up under the **National Cancer Control Programme** (List of RCCs attached in the Annexure). However, with the goal mentioned above there is an urgent need to further increase the number of Cancer Centres in India. The 12<sup>th</sup> Plan has identified the need to strengthen tertiary care under **National Program for Prevention and Control of Cancer, Diabetes, CVD and Stroke**. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare will implement the scheme. Under the scheme, 20 State Cancer Institutes (SCI) in 20 States and 50 Tertiary Cancer Care Centres across the country will be established. The broad aim is to provide universal access for comprehensive cancer care.

## Framework for Implementation

- The Scheme will provide assistance to existing medical colleges and institutions. Autonomous institutions under Central or State Government will be eligible. NGOs with experience and expertise in tertiary care for cancer are also eligible.
- State/ UT Governments would recommend the proposals which are fulfilling the eligibility criteria, along with furnishing the commitment to provide State share of funds.
- The Institution will submit the proposal through State Governments including action plan for procurement of equipment, instruments related to cancer treatment and research.
- Proposal would be appraised by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- A tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) will be signed by the Institution, the State Government and Central Government before release of financial assistance.

## Assistance Available

Maximum permissible assistance for a State Cancer Institute is Rs 120 crore and for Tertiary Cancer Care Centre is Rs 45 crore. This includes State's share of 25%. State Government or the Institution will provide Land and the cost of land will not be included in the assistance. Up to 30% of sanctioned amount can be spent civil/ electrical work (including renovation), and improvement of infrastructure. The remaining assistance will be utilized for procurement of radiotherapy equipment, diagnostic equipment, surgical equipment, enhancement of indoor patient facility for cancer and other facilities for diagnosis, treatment and care of cancer.

Financial assistance will be released through the State Government. 75% of Central Share will be released at the time of sanction while the remaining 25% will be released after finalization of procurement.

## Equity in Healthcare

User charges will be fixed with the approval of the State Government. Below Poverty Line (BPL) patients are to receive treatment free of charge, and a minimum number of beds must be available for this category. For poor patients who are not BPL, user charges must be reasonable and not market determined. Treatment of well to do patients is expected to cross-subsidize the poor patients.

### Key Stakeholders

- Ministry of Health and Family Welfare- Will be responsible for approving the proposal for setting up Cancer Centre.
- State Health Society- Chaired by Chief Secretary. Will forward the proposals to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and will implement the scheme in the state. The grant amount would be released to the institution after the signing of a tripartite MOU between the State Government, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and the institution.
- Medical Institution receiving funds under the scheme.

### Other Initiatives for Cancer Control

#### OncoNET India

OncoNET is a project sponsored by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare that aims to create a collaborative network between Healthcare Service Providers, Healthcare Professionals, and common citizens. It is expected to facilitate early detection of cancer patients through peripheral centres with provision of telemedicine services, along with creation of cancer patients' register and promotion of research and development.

The Government of India aims at bringing cancer care to towns and villages where such services are lacking. This will be achieved by connecting Regional Cancer Centres (established under National Cancer Control Programme) with various District Hospitals and Taluk Hospitals. There would also be provisions for referral to Regional Cancer Centres for diagnosis and treatment. The initiative is a part of the National Rural Telemedicine Network. Currently, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is planning to implement the network across states to develop telemedicine infrastructure. Proposals are being received by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare from State Governments for implementation of the network in various districts.

#### CSR Initiatives in Cancer Care

- **Helpyourbody Campaign, Piramal Foundation-** The programme aims create awareness on chronic diseases such as cancer by enrolling up to 20,000 doctors as crusaders across India. These doctor-crusaders will disseminate knowledge and generate awareness on chronic diseases, their diagnosis and management. Detection camps will be set up with a target to reach more than 10,00,000 people. It will also partner with local NGOs and medical fraternity for periodic health interventions.
- **GlaxoSmithKline Pharmaceuticals-** GSK supported a project for early detection of cancer initiated by Sri Chaitanya Welfare Trust's Bhaktivedanta Hospital, Mumbai in 2010. Remote areas of U.P and Maharashtra where services of cancer surgeons / oncology specialists were not available were targeted. Camps were set up in which 80-100 patients were screened in a day. Patients who needed further check-ups and treatment were referred to other hospitals along with treatment at Bhaktivedanta Hospital itself. 190 camps were conducted where around 10,000 patients were screened and 1849 suspected with cancer. Out of the 1849 patients, the hospital has operated upon 248 patients.
- **HLL(Hindustan Latex Limited) Lifecare-** HLL has organized cancer screening camps for women in association with Regional Cancer Centre, Thiruvananthapuram and PHC, Karakulam in Kerala. ASHA and Anganwadi workers, under the supervision of Health Staff, mobilized women for the camps. Women were screened for breast and cervical cancer.
- **Apollo Gleneagles Hospitals, Kolkata-** As a part of CSR, a mobile cancer screening unit was set up in 2013 to organize screening programs at various towns and rural areas of West Bengal. The initiative aims to screen at least 1,00,000 people annually free of cost.

## Annexure: List of Regional Cancer Centres

### Government Regional Cancer Centres

1. M.N.J.Institute of Oncology, Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh
2. Dr. B.Borooah Cancer Institute, Guwahati, Assam
3. Indira Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences, Patna, Bihar
4. PGIMER, Chandigarh
5. Pt.J.L.N Medical College, Raipur, Chattisgarh
6. PGIMS, Rohtak, Haryana
7. Indira Gandhi Medical College, Shimla, Himachal Pradesh
8. Sher-i-kashmir Instt., Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir
9. Government Medical College, Jammu& Kashmir
10. Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology, Bangalore, Karnataka
11. Regional Cancer Centre, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala
12. Regional Institute of Medical Sciences, Imphal, Manipur
13. Civil Hospital, Aizwal Mizoram
14. Dr.B.R.A. Institute Rotary Cancer Hospital, AIIMS, New Delhi
15. Regional Cancer Centre, Cuttack, Orrissa
16. JIPMER, Puducherry
17. S. P. Medical College, Bikaner, Rajasthan
18. Arignar Anna Memorial Instt., Kancheepuram, Tamil Nadu
19. Civil Hospital, Agratala, Tripura
20. SGPGI, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh
21. Chittaranjan National Cancer Institute, Calcutta, West Bengal

### NGO Regional Cancer Centres

1. Gujarat Cancer Research Institute, Ahmedabad, Gujarat
2. Cancer Hospital & Research Institute, Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh
3. Rashtra Sant Tukdoji, Nagpur, Maharashtra
4. Tata Memorial Hospital, Bombay, Maharashtra
5. Cancer Instt., Chennai, Tamil Nadu
6. Kamla Nehru Memorial Hospital, Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh