



GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM,
HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (A) DEPARTMENT
DISPUR, GUWAHATI- 781006

ORDERS BY THE GOVERNOR OF ASSAM
NOTIFICATION

HLA. 520/2013/28

Dated Dispur the 27nd November, 2013

In supersession of the earlier notifications issued vide (A) No. HLA.520/2013/5 dated Dispur the 18th May 2013 and (B) No. HLA.520/2013/5 dated Dispur the 18th May 2013, the following modifications in respect of guidelines of Sneha Sparsha scheme.

The Department of Health & Family Welfare, Government of Assam has launched a scheme namely 'Sneha Sparsha' - a Health Care Initiative for Children whereby financial assistance shall be provided for specialized treatment of children below 12 years of age afflicted with some serious ailments. The following guidelines are issued for operationalization of the scheme:

1. Eligibility:

Families with annual income less than Rs. 2.50 Lakh shall be eligible for availing benefits under the scheme, while priority shall be given to BPL families.

The beneficiary or guardians shall have to submit an Income Certificate issued by competent authority such as the Deputy Commissioner, Sub-Divisional Circle Officer, **circle officer**, Block Development officer or **any other authority** notified by Govt from time to time to be eligible for financial assistance.

2. Place of treatment for diseases admissible under Sneha Sparsha Scheme:

Treatment of some of the admissible procedures under the scheme may be done in the Medical College Hospitals and other Hospitals inside the state, whereas treatment of some of the diseases may require referral to suitable Health Institutions outside the state. Sneha Sparsha committee shall recommend, depending on the merit of the case, either referral of a case for super specialty treatment outside the state, or consider reimbursement of the medical expenses incurred while undergoing treatment in the Medical College Hospitals and other Hospitals of the State. For the purpose of referral, the Committee shall also recommend the designated Hospital outside the State. For both the groups, financial assistance will be offered under the Sneha Sparsha Scheme.

3. Permitted procedure and the maximum amount admissible: The rates notified are indicative and the actual admissible amount shall be fixed through a transparent process.

- i. **Bone Marrow Transplant:** Children with Leukemia (Blood Cancer) and other conditions like Thalassemia, in which Bone Marrow Transplant may be considered as a mode of treatment. The Sneha Sparsha Scheme will offer financial assistance up to Rs.10.00 Lakh per case for referral of such cases to leading Hospitals outside the state equipped with facilities for such treatment.
- ii. **Cochlear implant:** Children in need of Cochlear Implant will be given assistance up to Rs. 5.35 Lakh per case to BPL beneficiaries and Rs. 3.00 Lakh per case to APL beneficiaries for referral of such cases to Hospital outside the state, if necessary.
- iii. **Liver Transplant:** For Children in need of Liver Transplant, the scheme will offer financial assistance of up to Rs.16.00 Lakh per case to BPL beneficiaries and Rs. 10.00 Lakh per case to APL beneficiaries. Necessary arrangement shall be made for referral of such cases to leading Hospitals outside the state with state-of-the-art facilities for such treatment.
- iv. **Kidney Transplant:** Similarly children in need of Renal Transplant will be given financial assistance up to Rs. 3.00 Lakh per case to BPL beneficiaries and Rs. 2.00 Lakh per case to APL beneficiaries for referral of such cases to Hospitals outside the state, if necessary.

- v. **Artificial Limb:** Children in need of Artificial Limbs will be provided with financial assistance of up to Rs. 1.00 Lakh for Cosmetic Limb and up to Rs. 2.50 Lakh if Motorized Artificial Limb is considered necessary.
- vi. **Blood Cancer:** For treatment of Blood Cancer in children with Chemotherapy, financial assistance up to Rs. 1.00 Lakh per case will be given.
- vii. **Specialized Eye Surgery:** For children in need of Specialized Eye Surgery like Retinal Surgery or Posterior Segment Procedures, an amount of Rs. 15 Thousand will be given as assistance.
- viii. **Tumours:** Children suffering from various types of solid tumours needing costly investigations and treatment with Chemotherapy and Radiotherapy will be given financial assistance of up to Rs. 25 thousand. Children in need of cancer related surgery will be given financial assistance of up to Rs. 50 Thousand.
- ix. **Neurological Anomalies:** Children born with neurological anomalies like Hydrocephalus and Spina Bifida will be given assistance up to Rs.50 Thousand for investigation, surgical treatment and rehabilitation.
- x. **Thalassemia :** Financial assistance of Rs. 1.00 Lakh will be provided to children suffering from Thalassemia, who are not fit for Bone Marrow Transplant but require specialized treatment like splenectomy, blood transfusion and associated medicines.

Out of these, first five conditions shall be considered for referral outside the State and the rest of the procedures (Sl vi to Sl x) treatment is available in the Medical College Hospitals and other Hospitals inside the state.

4. Sneha Sparsha Committee:

The decision regarding admissibility of procedures under the Scheme and place of treatment shall be decided by an Expert Committee, to be known as 'Sneha Sparsha Committee' constituted for the purpose. The Sneha Sparsha Committee under Sneha Sparsha scheme shall be constituted of the following members:

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|--|---------------------|
| 1. Principal cum Chief Superintendent, GMCH | - Chairperson |
| 2. Vice Principal, GMCH and
Prof. & Head of the Department of Pediatric Surgery | - Chief Coordinator |
| 3. Prof. & Head of the Department of Clinical Hematology | - Member |
| 4. Prof. & Head of the Department of E.N.T. | - Member |
| 5. Prof. & Head of the Department of Orthopedics | - Member |
| 6. Prof. & Head of the Department of disease related to applicant | - Member |
| 7. Representative of Mission Director | - Member |
| 8. Superintendent, GMCH | - Member |
| 9. Addl. Superintendent, GMCH | - Member Secretary |

The applications from the parents of the children in need of financial assistance under this scheme shall be submitted to the Office of the Mission Director and/or to the Sneha Sparsha Committee, Sneha Sparsha C/o Gauhati Medical College. The applicants shall have to appear before the Sneha Sparsha Committee along with the patient on an appointed date to be notified by the Member Secretary, and submit all necessary documents for verification. The final selection shall be done by Sneha Sparsha Committee on the basis of the documents received.

5. The procedure of payment:

Under the Scheme those conditions for which treatment is not available in State Government Hospitals in Assam, would be considered for referral outside the state, and for the remaining procedures treatment would be given in the Government Hospitals of the state.

In case of State Government Hospitals, the Hospital shall provide a statement of requirement of fund in advance for a specific time period, preferably for 6 months, giving likely number of cases under each specified procedure and as per the admissible rates under the scheme. After utilization of the advance amount received, the Hospital will provide, on monthly basis, bills, vouchers and list of beneficiaries for the amount spent along with the medical intervention conducted to the Sneha Sparsha Committee, who will verify and submit the same

to MD, NRHM. Only on the basis of these documents and recommendation of the Sneha Sparsha Committee subsequent fund release to Hospitals shall be considered by NRHM Assam.

In case of treatment outside the State Government Hospitals, after verification of application, the Sneha Sparsha Committee shall recommend for approval of MD, NRHM. Once the approval of assistance is accorded by the MD, NRHM the patient shall be issued a letter of approval 'In Principle' as confirmation of assistance under the scheme. The Committee shall recommend a suitable Health institution for referral, which shall be subsequently contacted by the beneficiary receiving 'In Principle' approval for obtaining confirmation and cost estimate of treatment.

The cost of travel and stay for obtaining treatment estimate from Referral Hospital, however, shall not be borne by the Scheme.

The Sneha Sparsha Committee shall certify the amount of treatment as per the estimate received from the Referral Hospital, considering the maximum limit admissible for the condition under the Sneha Sparsha Scheme.

The MD, NRHM shall sanction release of fund to the Referral Hospital on certification from the Committee, and as advance 50 percent of the amount shall be released to the Hospital for the treatment of the selected beneficiary. The remaining amount shall be released on receipt on the bills.

The Chief Coordinator of the Committee shall ensure communication with the referral hospital at all levels and also ensure receipt of bills and vouchers from the Hospital after treatment.

Sd/-

V. S. Bhaskar, IAS

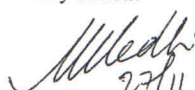
Principal Secretary to the Govt. of Assam
Health & Family Welfare Deptt

Dated Dispur the 27th November, 2013

Memo No: HLA. 520/2013/28-A

Copy to:

1. The P. P.S. to Hon'ble Chief Minister of Assam for kind appraisal of the Hon'ble Chief Minister.
2. The P.S. to Hon'ble Minister, Health & Family Welfare, Assam for kind appraisal of the Hon'ble Minister
3. The Secretary to the Govt. of Assam, Health & Family Welfare deptt. for information.
4. The Director Health Services, Assam, Hengerabari, Guwahati- 36 for information.
5. The Director Health Services (FW), Assam, Hengerabari, Guwahati- 36 for information.
6. The Director of Medical Education, Assam, Six Mile, Guwahati- 22 for information.
7. The Principal cum Chief Superintendent, Gauhati Medical College, Guwahati- 32 for information & necessary action.
8. The Principal cum Chief Superintendent, Silchar Medical College & Hospital, Ghungoor, Silchar- 788014 for information & necessary action.
9. The Principal cum Chief Superintendent, Fakharuddin Ali Ahmed Medical College & Hospital, Barpeta, Assam- 781301 for information & necessary action.
10. The Principal cum Chief Superintendent, Jorhat Medical College & Hospital, Kushal Konwar Path, Barbheta, Jorhat, Assam- 785001 for information & necessary action.
11. The Principal cum Chief Superintendent, Assam Medical College & Hospital Barbari, Dibrugarh, Assam - 786 002 for information & necessary action.
12. The Deputy Commissioner,..... /Principal Secretary Autonomous council,for information.
13. The Joint Director of Health Services,..... for information & necessary action.


Deputy Secretary to the Govt. of Assam.
Health & Family Welfare Deptt.