



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

ORDERS BY THE GOVERNOR OF ASSAM
NOTIFICATION

Dated Dispur the 30th December, 2021

No.HLA.661/2021/6: In supersession of the earlier notifications issued vide No. HLA.520/2013/5 dated 18/05/2013 and No. HLA.520/2013/28 dated 27/11/2013, certain modifications are notified in respect of guidelines of Snehasparsha Scheme:

The Department of Health and Family Welfare, Government of Assam has launched a scheme namely "Snehasparsha" –a Health Care Initiative for Children whereby financial assistance shall be provided for specialized treatment of children below 14 years of age afflicted with various serious ailments. The following guidelines are issued for optimal operationalization of the scheme:

Eligibility:

All Children below 14 years of age will be entitled to get benefits under this scheme with annual family income less than Rs. 5 (five) lakhs per annum. However, in exceptional cases the income limit may be relaxed after due consideration at the highest level of authority.

Place of treatment for diseases admissible under Snehasparsha 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, Snehasparsha committee shall recommend, depending on the merit of the case, either referral of a case for super specialty treatment outside the state is required, or consider reimbursement of the medical expenses incurred while undergoing treatment in the Medical College Hospitals and other Hospitals within the state. For the purpose of referral, the Committee shall also recommend the designated Hospitals outside the State. For both the groups, financial assistance will be offered under the Snehasparsha Scheme.

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 **Leukeumia** (Blood Cancer) and other conditions like **Thalassemia**, in which Bone Marrow Transplant may be considered as a mode of treatment will be offered financial assistance as per actuals up to a maximum limit of Rs. 13.80 lakhs adequately per case for referral of such cases to leading Hospitals outside the state equipped with facilities for such treatment. Depending on the economic condition of the beneficiary, the committee may decide whether to approve 100 % or 50 % financial assistance of the bill amount.
- ii. **Cochlear implant:** Children in need of Cochlear implant will be given assistance as per actuals up to a maximum limit up to Rs. 5.35 lakhs per case for referral of such cases to Public/ Private Hospitals outside the State or in the State including Medical College & Hospital, if necessary.
- iii. **Liver transplant:** For children in need of Liver Transplant, the scheme will offer financial assistance as per actuals up to a maximum limit of Rs. 16.00 Lakhs per case. 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 as per actuals up to a maximum limit up to Rs10.00 lakhs per case for referral of such cases to Public/ Private Hospitals outside the State or in the State, if necessary. Payment will be made as per actuals on hospital bills preferably at CGHS rates.
- v. **Artificial Limbs:** Children in need of Artificial Limbs will be provided with financial assistance as per actuals up to a maximum limit of Rs.2.00 lakhs for Cosmetic Limbs and up to Rs. 5.00 Lakhs if Motorized Artificial Limbs is considered necessary.
- vi. **Blood Cancer:** For treatment of Blood Cancer in children with Chemotherapy, financial assistance as per actuals up to a maximum limit up to Rs. 5.00 Lakhs per case will be given.
- vii. **Specialized Eye Surgery:** For children in need of Specialized Eye Surgery like Retinal Surgery or Posterior Segment Procedures, will be given financial assistance as per actuals up to a maximum limit of Rs. 50,000/- .
- viii. **Tumors:** Children suffering from various types of solid tumors needing costly investigations and treatment with Chemotherapy and Radiotherapy will be given financial assistance as per actuals up to a maximum limit of Rs. 3.00 lakhs/- per case.
- ix. **Neurological Anomalies:** Children born with Neurological Anomalies like Hydrocephalus and Spina Bifida will be given financial assistance as per actuals up to maximum limit of Rs. 3.00 lakhs for investigation, surgical treatment and rehabilitation.

x. Thalassemia: Financial assistance as per actuals up to a maximum limit of Rs. 3.00 Lakhs will be provided to children suffering from thalassemia, who are not fit for Bone marrow Transplant but require specialized treatment like splenectomy, blood and associated medicines.

Under the **Snehasparsha Plus** one time financial assistance of Rs. 50,000/- and 36 instalments of Rs. 2500/- will be made to children with Cerebral Palsy and other neurological disorders, who are selected as beneficiaries, after a detailed screening by Expert Committee.

Snehasparsha 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 Snehasparsha Committee constituted for the purpose. The Snehasparsha Committee under Snehasparsha Scheme shall be constituted with the following members:

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| 1. Principal cum Chief Superintendent, GMCH | - Chairperson |
| 2. Superintendent, GMCH | - Chief Coordinator |
| 3. MD, NHM, Assam
(or representative appointed by MD) | - Member Secretary |
| 4. Head of the Department of
Paediatric/Paediatric Surgery
(All Medical Colleges) | - Member |
| 5. Prof. & Head of the Department of Clinical
Hematology, GMCH | - Member |
| 6. Prof. & Head of the Department of E.N.T,
GMCH | - Member |
| 7. Prof. & Head of the Department of
Orthopaedics, GMCH | - Member |
| 8. Prof & Head of Department of Neurology,
GMCH | - Member |
| 9. Prof. & Head of Department of disease
related to applicant, GMCH | - Member |

The Chief Coordinator may appoint designated co-ordinators from each medical college for smooth implementation of the Scheme.

Process of Application:

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 Snehasparsha Committee, Snehasparsha, C/o Gauhati Medical College. The applicants shall have to appear before the Snehasparsha 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 Snehasparsha Committee on the basis of the documents received.

The procedure of Payments: Under the scheme those conditions for which treatment is not available in State Government Hospitals/ Private Hospitals of 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 Snehasparsha Committee, who will verify and submit the same to MD, NHM, Assam. Only on the basis of these documents and recommendation of the Snehasparsha Committee subsequent fund release to Hospitals shall be considered by NHM, Assam.

In case of treatment outside the State Government Hospitals, after due verification of applications, the Snehasparsha Committee shall recommend for approval of office of MD, NHM, Assam. Once the approval of assistance is approved by the office of the MD, NHM 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 will be borne by NHM office. Air Tickets will be procured by NHM office only for the patient and single attendant flying to and fro Guwahati & the referral hospital outside the State. The Snehasparsha 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 Snehasparsha Scheme. MD, NHM, shall sanction release of fund to the Referral Hospital on certification from the Committee, and as advance, 50% of the amount shall be released to the Hospital for the treatment of the selected beneficiary. The remaining amount shall be released on receipt of the final 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/- (Anurag Goel, IAS)
Principal Secretary to the Govt. of Assam
Health & Family Welfare Department

Memo No: HLA 661/2021/6-A

Dated Dispur the 30th December, 2021

1. The Mission Director, National Health Mission, Assam for information and needful action.
2. Principal Secretary, Bodoland Territorial Council/ Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council/ NC Hills Autonomous Council
3. Director of Health Services , Assam, Hengerabari, Guwhati-36
4. Director of Health Services (FW) Assam, Hengerabari, Guwhati-36
5. Director of Medical Education, Sixmile, Guwahati-22, Assam
6. The Deputy Commissioner (All Districts).....for information.
7. SO to Chief Secretary, Assam for information.
8. Principal cum Chief Superintendent, all Medical College & Hospitals of Assam for information.
9. Superintendent, all Medical College & Hospitals of Assam for information.
10. The Deputy Commissioner (All Districts).....for information.
11. ED, NHM, Assam for information.
12. All members of Snehasparsha Committee.
13. The Joint Director of Health Services.....for information & necessary action.
14. The P.S. to Hon'ble Chief Minister of Assam for kind appraisal of the Hon'ble Chief Minister.
15. PS to Hon'ble Minister, Health & Family Welfare, for kind appraisal of Hon'ble Minister
16. P.S. to the Principal Secretary to the Govt. of Assam, Health & FW Department
17. Office Copy


Joint Secretary to the Govt. of Assam
Health & Family Welfare Department