

Record note of the COVID review meeting dated 14-05-21 at Gauhati Medical College & Hospital under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Chief Minister of Assam

An emergency meeting under the chairmanship of Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Assam to review the management of serious COVID-19 patients in Gauhati Medical College Hospital in presence of Principal Secretary, Health & Family Welfare Department, Mission Director NHM, Principal GMCH and all senior faculty of GMCH was held on 14-05-21 at Conference hall of Principal GMCH.

After detailed analysis of existing facilities in GMCH, immediate expansion plans, various emergencies related to COVID and treatment protocols to deal with them and considered feedback from all the medical experts present in the meeting, the following decisions were taken:

1. As learned from the analysis of death due to COVID-19 presented by Principal GMCH (Annexure I), strengthening of emergency care of COVID positive patient at the entry point itself is of absolute importance.
2. The emergency area of GMCH shall be kept totally ready to receive the COVID positive patient and initiate required treatment 24x7 basis, with all necessary supporting systems including mobile ventilator support and emergency medicines including injRemdesivir.
3. The first doses of any of the emergency medicine required for the patient shall be free of cost irrespective of the financial category of the patient, so that no procedural delay affects the treatment.
4. The detailed analysis shows that many patients are lost during late night/early morning time, may be because of late mobilisation of the patient or resources at odd hours. Considering the observation, GMCH authority shall take immediate action to strengthen the odd hour management thoroughly so that best practices are followed 24x7 without any difference and immediate decisions related to treatment of patients are not delayed .
5. Serious patients shall be examined on daily basis by senior faculty from General Medicine and Respiratory Medicine so that the treatment of such patients are supervised at every level.
6. The ongoing examination of the Post Graduate students in various medical colleges shall be completed expeditiously. However, result declaration shall be made with Government approval only in view of the ongoing engagement of PG Doctors in various COVID duties in medical college hospitals.
7. In order to provide accommodation facilities for the additional man power engaged/ to be engaged in GMCH ICUs/ COVID wards, NHM shall take the help of District Administration of Kamrup Metro to requisition suitable buildings/ residential facilities on emergency basis.



8. Considering the late admission of patients coming from Home Isolation, NHM shall analyse and submit a report whether these patients are getting adequate support and advise from 104 Call Centre for COVID-19. Further, a comparative study of reported deaths and the telemedicine advice status of such cases shall be made for taking necessary actions to make the tele-consultation system fully competent to deal with all active home isolation cases. Necessary additional man power trained for tele-consultation may be engaged on temporary basis for this purpose.
9. All home isolation cases must be followed up regarding daily oxygen saturation status. NHM Assam shall immediately distribute 5000 numbers of Pulse oxymeters, in a rational manner to the deserving home isolation cases through district surveillance teams and ensure regular reporting of oxygen saturation. Once the positive patient recovers, pulse oxymeters may be reused after proper sanitization.
10. While measuring oxygen saturation, 6 minute walk test (measuring oxygen saturation after walking for 6 minutes within the isolation premises), which is more correct to predict the progressive nature of the disease shall be advised and followed up. 104, shall actively guide home isolated patients in case of dropping saturation for hospital admission for further treatment.
11. In view of the various reports related to the utility of Ivermectin as prophylactic drug against COVID, a committee involving medical experts shall submit their considered recommendation to the Health & Family Welfare department within 15-05-21 so that necessary actions may be taken at the earliest.
12. InjTocilizumab, which may be of use during 'Cytokine Storm' observed in some of COVID patients are found to be extremely scarce and Government of India allocation is also very minimal. Therefore, a small stock of InjTocilizumab shall be kept in Medical Colleges to be used with medical expert's advice.
13. In view of large number of COVID patients waiting for timely service of 108 ambulance, immediate steps for engaging 100 numbers of additional ambulances (from private sector / Adarani service) shall be immediately undertaken and they shall be placed under 108 system. GVK EMRI, the 108 operator shall take necessary steps in this regard and NHM shall move for necessary approvals of the Government immediately.
14. In view of the projected number of patients requiring oxygen supported beds, immediate measures to establish medical gas pipelines and additional electrification (if any) for placing ventilator support in the Down Town University building at Panikheti shall be undertaken with immediate effect through NHM. Necessary procedures for utilising the infrastructures available in Down Town



University campus shall be undertaken by NHM with necessary government approvals.

15. Principal GMCH shall prepare an estimate for essential equipment and furniture to establish the 200 bedded ICU facility along with step down ICU in GMCH Campus (Old Car park) based on the approved rates of different essential items and place to Health & family Department for approval. Necessary funds for the same shall be released by NHM from the available funds under State Budget with NHM to the Hospital Management Society of GMCH which shall be recouped in due course of time with budget release to GMCH.
16. Similar estimate for necessary equipment/furniture for the 100 bedded ICU in the 300 bedded facility being set up by DRDO shall be prepared by Principal GMCH and NHM will take necessary action with necessary Government approvals.
17. RTPCR testing conducted by various private laboratories in Kamrup Metro shall be inspected by ED NHM on regular basis and veracity of testing and reporting shall be examined in detail. Necessary corrective actions shall be undertaken by ED NHM in case of variations if observed.

The meeting ended with thanks to the chair.

Sd/-

(Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma)
Chief Minister, Assam

Memo No. HLA.270/2020/350 – A

Dated Dispur the 20th May, 2021.

Copy to:-

1. The Principal Secretary to Hon'ble Chief Minister, Assam, Dispur.
2. The Mission Director, National Health Mission, Assam, Guwahati-5
3. The Director of Health Services, Assam, Hengerabari, Guwahati-36.
4. The Director of Health Services (FW), Assam, Hengerabari, Guwahati-36.
5. The Director of Medical Education, Assam, Sixmile, Khanapara, Guwahati-22.
6. The Principal-cum-Chief Superintendent Gauhati Medical College.
7. The Superintendent Gauhati Medical College & Hospital, Assam.
8. The Deputy Commissioner Kamrup (M).
9. The Joint Director of Health Services Kamrup (M).
10. PS to Hon'ble Minister, Health & Family Welfare, Assam, Dispur.

By order etc.,



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