



वसुधैव कुटुम्बकम्
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The Administration of Union Territory of Ladakh.
OFFICE OF THE MISSION DIRECTOR NHM
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प्रशासन केंद्र शासित प्रदेश लद्दाख।
मिशन निदेशक एनएचएम कार्यालय
स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण विभाग
राज्य स्वास्थ्य सोसायटी, यूटी लद्दाख

The Chief Medical Officer,
Leh and Kargil.

No:-SHS/UTL/NHM/FMG/Free diag./ 6938-47

Dated:- 18-12-2023

Subject:- Implementation of Free Diagnostic Scheme in UT of Ladakh.

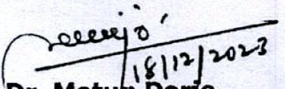
{रिन्-मेट-नाट-गजि-ब्र-टाग-द-चाट}

Sir/Madam,

Governing Body, State Health Society, National Health Mission, Ladakh under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor, Ladakh has approved **Free Diagnostic Scheme** under NHM , under which all diagnostic services being provided in Govt. Health Institutions of UT Ladakh shall be provided free of cost to all patients. The scheme shall be implemented in all the Government Health Institutions of the UT with immediate effect under the Scheme "रिन्-मेट-नाट-गजि-ब्र-टाग-द-चाट" "Rin-Met-Nat-gJi-brTag-dChat".

In this regards the Administration has approved a SOP (Standard Operating Procedure) for implementation of the Scheme.

You are requested to implement the Free Diagnostic Scheme in your district as per the attached SOP. The expenditure on this account shall be incurred out of the approved activity of **Free Diagnostic Scheme under RoP 2023-24.**

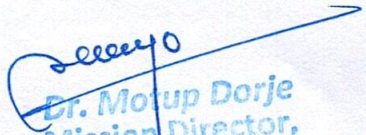

18/12/2023
Dr. Motup Dorje
Mission Director
National Health Mission, UT Ladakh

Copy to the:-

1. Director Finance, UT Ladakh for information.
2. Director Health Services, UT Ladakh for information.
3. Medical Superintendent, District Hospital, Leh and Kargil for information and n/a.
4. PS to HCEC, LAHDC Leh/Kargil for kind information of HCEC.
5. OSD to Advisor to Hon'ble LG, UT Ladakh for kind information of the Advisor.
6. PA to Commissioner Secretary, H&ME UT Ladakh for kind information of the Commissioner Secretary, H&ME UT Ladakh.



**STANDARD
OPERATING
PROCEDURE (SOP)
Free Diagnostic
Services under
NHM**


Dr. Motup Dorje
Mission Director,
National Health Mission, UT Ladakh.

FREE DIAGNOSTIC SERVICE OF UT LADAKH

Rin-Med-Nad-gJi-bRtag-dChad. རིན་མེད་ནད་གཞི་བརྟག་དམངས།

Introduction:

1. Diagnostics are an integral part of the health care system and provide information needed about care provision related to prevention, screening, detection, treatment and management. Due to high cost of diagnostic services and access to quality laboratory and radiology services are among the major challenges contributing to delayed or inappropriate responses to disease control and patient management. This also results in delay in diagnosis of diseases or irrational diagnostic prescription, practices that result in waste scarce resources.
2. Out of pocket expenditures on diagnostic tests are high and increasing, sometimes even overtaking the costs of medicines. The poor who access public health care facilities have access to a limited set of free diagnostic services.
3. The ready availability of zero out of pocket diagnostic tools enables accurate detection of health risks and disease at an early stage, thereby improving disease management, and also diminishing subsequent health problems and associated costs. Diagnostics therefore play a useful role in influencing the quality of patient care, and health outcomes. Free of cost and Good quality diagnostic tests that are fit for purpose and provide

accurate results are therefore of paramount importance in reducing the burden of disease.

4. A package of essential diagnostics, if available free of cost in public health facilities would not only reduce the burden on the poor and the vulnerable but would also be accessible to sections of the middle class and lower class of sections that face financial stress on account of expensive health care diagnostics. This would also make the health care in public health facilities comprehensive and thereby attractive to larger segments of population.
5. Several states have attempted to ensure the availability of diagnostics in the public health facilities. These range from improving access to diagnostics within public health facilities through hiring laboratory technicians and procuring equipment kits, reagents as part of regular supplies, or by outsourcing the function of diagnostics, or by establishing linkages with laboratories in the private sector for providing selected diagnostics. Such efforts have been supported under the National Health Mission (NRHM). Under NHM RoP 2022-23 and 2023-24 an amount of Rs. 88.00 Lac each year have been approved under free diagnostic services component to provide free essential diagnostic services to be available at different levels of public facilities across the UT to reduce variability in coverage and unequal access. The free diagnostic services are expected to assist states to roll-out/scale up the diagnostic service to ensure access to free diagnostics is met in full measure.

B. Objectives of the Free Diagnostics Service Initiative are:

- I). Ensure access at all levels of society to the essential diagnostics service at all levels of govt. care facilities.
- ii) Reduce high out of pocket expenditure incurred by patients for diagnostics.
- iii) Enable initiation and continuation of appropriate treatment based on accurate diagnosis.
- iv) Use of appropriate diagnostics to screen patients for a set of chronic conditions so as to enable secondary prevention measures.
- v) Improve overall quality of healthcare and patients experience as a result of availability of comprehensive healthcare in public health facilities free of cost.

C. Salient features of the Free Diagnostics Service Initiative

The salient features of the initiative include:

1. The Free Diagnostics Service Initiative would be rolled out under the aegis of National Health Mission, in order to leverage existing institutional structures that are already in place.
2. At present, general public are charged different quantum of amount for the diagnostic facilities provided by the government health institutions. The collected amount are deposited in the Hospital Development Funds (HDF) of the concerned health institutions. The HDF amount plays a vital role in leveraging the hospital infrastructure and machinery & equipments. The HDF amount is utilized for strengthening/ Development and maintenance of the equipments and infrastructure of the respective health institutions.

3. The estimated amount collected in the HDF from the diagnostic services by all the health institutions of UT Ladakh, where diagnostic service are available, is Rs.133.01 Lac during Financial Year 2022-23

Details of Revenue Generated from Diagnostic Services

a. Kargil District Health Institutions	₹. 56.27 Lac
b. Leh District Health Institutions	<u>₹. 76.74 Lac</u>
Total Amount for UT Ladakh	<u>₹. 133.01 Lac</u>

4. Consequences upon the implementation of the free diagnostic service in the UT, the major portion of the revenue generated by RKS will not be available. The revenue generated from the diagnostic services provided by health institutions has a considerable impact on the overall development and to meet the day to day urgent monetary requirement of the health institution.
5. An amount of Rs.88.00 Lac have been approved in the NHM RoP 2023-24 under Free Diagnostic Services to provide free of cost diagnostic services to all the patients who are availing services in the government health institutions.

Module of Free Diagnostic Services

1. Reimbursement of the HDF funds Under Free Diagnostic Policy.


Under this module, all the activities or procedures of diagnostic services shall function as per present scenario, however, the patient will not be charged for any diagnostic services availed at the government health institutions. The amount of fund of HDF which the health institution is not able to collect due to implementation of the free diagnostic services shall be recoup from the approved budget component of NHM, free diagnostic services.

Under this module the functionalities or procedure for diagnostic services of the health institutions shall function exactly same as it is followed in present scenario, OPD slip shall be issued to the patient and payment voucher generated for diagnostic test, however, a free stamp shall be affixed on the diagnostic payments slip. At the end of the month a designated official shall submit the details of the diagnostic services not covered under any free diagnostic schemes such as JSSK, NPHCE, etc and provided by the health institution, to the NHM accounts section of the concerned health institutions or at block head quarter. After due verification the derived amount of the diagnostic services at the present rate of diagnostic services chargeable to the patient, shall be reimbursed to the HDF account of the concerned health institutions either from the free diagnostic budget or the funds accrued due to claims under AB-PMJAY.

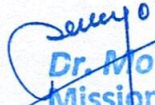
Detailed Step-by-Step procedure for Free Diagnostic Services.

1. The patient details shall be captured at the registration counter of the health institutions preferably on digital format Like Next Gen, Dru Care, etc.
2. The specific diagnostic procedures of the particular patient shall be captured and entered at the respective OPD section of the institution.
3. The OPD section shall enter the diagnostic details in digital form on the portals and a hardcopy of the slip shall also be issued to the patient as per present practice.
4. The patient shall go to the registration counter with the slip issued by the concerned OPD section.
5. The officials at registration counter shall capture the diagnostic details of the particular patient and the present rate of the diagnostic shall also be captured on the portal and offline record shall also be maintained if required.
6. The slip issued by the OPD section shall be returned back to the patient with "Free under FDS" affixed.
7. The patient will proceed for the particular diagnostic department with the slip where "Free under FDS" affixed.
8. The diagnostic department shall not entertained any diagnostic slip unless it is affixed with the stamp of " Free under FDS".
9. At the end of the month the registration counter shall submit the details of the diagnostics, which were provided free under "Free under FDS". The detail should mention the amount of the particular diagnostic provided in the month and the total amount for all the diagnostic in the particular month shall also be mentioned.

10. The above details should be downloaded from the opted application only. If in, any case, the portal not working offline details can also be accepted.
11. The diagnostics which are already providing free under different scheme like NPHCE, JSSK, JSY, RBSK, etc. should not be incorporated in the details provided for the Free Diagnostic Scheme, stated at Para 9. The segregated data as per above details shall be downloaded from the portal at the registration counter of the institution and shall submit to the concerned officials/ Officers for reimbursement to the HDF of the concerned health institutions.
12. The accounts dealing officials of the institutions shall deposit the diagnostic amount, as per the details provided by the registration counter of the institution.
13. The amount of the diagnostic services shall be reimbursed every monthly, before 10th day of the following month to the HDF account.
14. The approved amount under Free Diagnostic Services shall be released upto the Block level and shall disburse the amount on PFMS portal.
15. Since the accounts personnel is not posted at PHC or CHC level except at the CHCs, PHCs where the block Head Quarter is functioning. Moreover, the diagnostic revenue generated at the CHC as well as at the PHCs level are very minimal, the reimbursement of these institutions shall be disbursed from the Block Headquarters on monthly basis. The concern CHC or PHC in-charge shall submit the details of the diagnostics provided during a particular month to the respective Block Medical Officers.
16. The Block Medical Officer shall reimburse the Free Diagnostic amount to the respective HDF account of the CHC


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or PCHCs as per the details provided by the concerned in-charge of the health institutions.


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