

No. S- 12015/20/2020-NHA(HN&QA)
Government of India
National Health Authority

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject: Testing of COVID-19 for PM-JAY beneficiaries through private labs

NHA has issued four OMs dated 04/04/2020, 08/04/2020, 13/04/2020 and 03/05/2020 that provide details on how PM-JAY beneficiaries would get tested in private labs through PM-JAY empaneled hospitals. However, it has been noticed that in-spite of these guidelines, limited use of this package has been made. Therefore, it is suggested that State Health Agencies carry out the following activities:

1. Support the empaneled hospitals in linking with private labs:

- a. Proactively contact empaneled hospitals in the State to identify which private hospitals are providing and can provide COVID-19 treatment in the State as per the guidelines of the State.
- b. Such hospitals which are not providing COVID-19 treatment but are providing treatment for Severe Acute Respiratory Infection (SARI) shall also be identified.
- c. Since COVID-19 testing can be done only by ICMR registered labs, SHAs shall identify such labs within the State or outside the State which need to be tied up with for COVID-19 testing.
- d. SHAs may also fix the prices which will be provided to the private labs for testing. This should not be more than the ceiling fixed by ICMR.
- e. SHAs shall help the empaneled hospitals in tying up with these private labs and collate data of such labs that will provide services to empaneled hospitals in the State. SHAs might also directly empanel ICMR approved labs. However, these labs will be entitled for payment under scheme only for testing cases referred by EHCPs.
- f. The empaneled hospitals will have to upload the details of the lab(s), with which they have entered into arrangement(s) for providing COVID testing facility to their patients, in HEM portal.

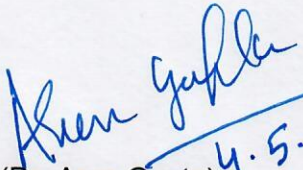
2. Protocols for ensuring COVID-19 testing:

- a. SHAs shall ensure that all ICMR protocols are being followed by hospitals and labs for collection, logistics and testing.
- b. Instructions should be issued to all empaneled hospitals for mandatory COVID-19 testing for all SARI and other cases which are eligible for testing as per ICMR/State guidelines.

- c. Necessary instructions will also need to be issued to PMAMs so that preauthorization for testing is raised at the time of raising preauthorisation for such cases.
- d. TPAs or Insurance companies shall be instructed for this purpose, where claim processing for such eligible cases may be done only when test report is uploaded by EHCP or reason(s) for not testing is indicated. In absence of testing in eligible cases, the claim should not be automatically rejected but a clarification should be sought from the EHCP.
- e. In cases where private hospital providing treatment for SARI case needs to send the patient to a public facility for testing, no preauthorization for testing package is expected. In such cases also, the process in point 2(d) should be followed.
- f. In case different institutions are involved in overall process from collection to testing, appropriation of the amount may be decided by the state or decision may be left to the respective institutions.
- g. A monitoring system should be developed by the State to ensure compliance to above guidelines.

NHA is making necessary changes in the IT system to facilitate these processes. This will include tools like pop-ups for PPDs/CPDs, direct empanelment of suitable ICMR registered labs by SHA, capturing the tie ups between EHCPs and ICMR approved Labs and dashboard for eligible cases for testing.

Dated: 04.05.2020


(Dr. Arun Gupta) 4.5.2020
Executive Director
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