

# Setting up of Medical Advisory Cell at National Health Authority

AYUSHMAN BHARAT – PRADHAN MANTRI JAN AROGYA YOJANA (AB PM-JAY),  
NATIONAL HEALTH AUTHORITY – GOVT. OF INDIA  
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## Setting up of Medical Advisory Cell at NHA

During the past year and half of scheme implementation, it has been observed that on numerous occasions, core technical expertise of clinical specialists and super-specialists are required to swiftly facilitate & resolve clinical queries and provide valuable policy level decisions for seamless implementation of the scheme. Some of the broad areas include:

- a) Health Benefit packages/ drugs/ devices/ implants including addition of new packages received on various forum
- b) Standard Treatment Guidelines based on extant norms
- c) Quality Assurance
- d) Medical audit & fraud control

2. During the rationalisation of the Health Benefit Packages and during the initial development of STGs, NHA has been taking clinical inputs from the specialist committees jointly formed with DHR-ICMR. As the scope of work has increased expert advice is required on a routine basis and hence, a need is felt to on-board a few specialists/ super-specialists (2-3 from each specialty) from some of the prominent/ apex medical institutes/ colleges/ hospitals/ institutes of national importance in the country. The identified experts would be requested to dedicate sufficient time to provide their technical guidance and advise NHA in a timely manner which will aid in prompt decision making.

3. In view of the above, it has been decided to set up a Medical Cell within HN&QA division at NHA. The details are as follows:

The **objectives** of the Medical cell include:

- a. Provide expert guidance in the field of their clinical practice to Hospital Networking & Quality Assurance (HN&QA) and National Anti-Fraud Unit (NAFU). Some of the areas within these include Health Benefit Packages, Quality Assurance, Standard Treatment Workflows, Medical Audit, etc.
- b. Advise NHA in developing specialty specific policies/ treatment guidelines for seamless implementation of the Health Benefit Packages.

- c. To aid the NAFU and State Anti-Fraud Unit (SAFU) of the National Health Authority & State Health Agencies in identification and monitoring of fraud/abuse during claims adjudication process and technical guidance in designing of package specific fraud prevention guidelines.
- d. Support research and analytics activities of NHA by providing technical guidance in their subject areas.

During the rationalisation of the Health Benefit Packages and during the initial

The **terms of reference** of the Medical cell are:

1. Provide expert guidance in the field of your clinical practice to Hospital Networking & Quality Assurance (HN&QA) and National Anti-Fraud Unit (NAFU). Some of the areas within these include Health Benefit Packages, Quality Assurance, Standard Treatment Workflows, Medical Audit etc.
2. Provide stewardship role and advise NHA in developing & reviewing specialty specific policies/ treatment guidelines for seamless implementation of the Health Benefit Packages.
3. To aid the NAFU and State Anti-Fraud Unit (SAFU) of the National Health Authority & State Health Agencies in identification and monitoring of fraud/abuse during claims adjudication process and technical guidance in designing of package specific fraud prevention guidelines.
4. Provide a stewardship role in designing & reviewing policies related to the specialty in areas such as:
  - a. Partial payment
  - b. Special cases (claim amount  $\geq$  1 lakh)
  - c. Unspecified cases (Claim amount up to 1 lakh and not a listed package)
  - d. Implant specification and usage
  - e. Fraud/ abuse and medical audit
  - f. Standard Treatment Workflows
5. Support research and analytics activities of NHA by providing technical guidance in their activities.
6. Guide on improving quality by eliminating/ reducing gaps and identify & implement key areas of improvement.

7. Guide on improving existing Checklists for assessing the quality of care delivered across Healthcare facilities.
8. Uptake Capacity building of States/UTs w.r.t quality.
9. Surprise quality audit of empanelled hospitals based on requirement.
10. Surprise quality audit of AB PM-JAY Certified hospitals as assigned.
11. Provide assistance in facilitating hospital quality expertise in research activities/ publications.
12. Undertake any other assignment given by NHA.

## List of Experts

S. No.	Name of Expert	Speciality	E-Mail
1.	Dr. Shally Awasthi, KGMC	Paediatrics	<a href="mailto:shally07@gmail.com">shally07@gmail.com</a>
2.	Dr. Sushil Kabra, AIIMS	Paediatrics	<a href="mailto:skkabra@hotmail.com">skkabra@hotmail.com</a>
3.	Dr. Neelam Mohan, Medanta	Paediatrics	<a href="mailto:drneelam@yahoo.com">drneelam@yahoo.com</a>
4.	Dr. Ashok Deorari, AIIMS	Neonatology	<a href="mailto:ashokdeorari_56@hotmail.com">ashokdeorari_56@hotmail.com</a>
5.	Dr. Amlesh Seth, AIIMS, New Delhi	Urology	<a href="mailto:amlesh.seth@gmail.com">amlesh.seth@gmail.com</a>
6.	Dr. Anup Kumar, Safdarjung, Delhi	Urology	<a href="mailto:anup_14k@yahoo.com">anup_14k@yahoo.com</a>
7.	Dr. Pawan Vasudevan	Urology	<a href="mailto:drpawanvasudeva@gmail.com">drpawanvasudeva@gmail.com</a>
8.	Dr. Jeyaraj Pandiyam, CMC, Ludhiana	Neurology	<a href="mailto:jeyarajpandian@hotmail.com">jeyarajpandian@hotmail.com</a>
9.	Dr. Manjari Tripathi, AIIMS	Neurology	<a href="mailto:manjari.tripathi1@gmail.com">manjari.tripathi1@gmail.com</a>

10.	Dr. Vivekanand Jha, The George Inst of Global Health	Nephrology	<a href="mailto:vijha@georgeinsitute.org.in">vijha@georgeinsitute.org.in</a>
11.	Prof Sandeep Mahajan, AIIMS	Nephrology	<a href="mailto:mahajansn@yahoo.com">mahajansn@yahoo.com</a>
12.	Dr. Manisha	Ophthalmology	<a href="mailto:manisha@sceh.net">manisha@sceh.net</a>
13.	Dr. Radhika Tandon, AIIMS, New Delhi	Ophthalmology	<a href="mailto:radhika_tan@yahoo.com">radhika_tan@yahoo.com</a>
14.	Dr. S. K. Dwivedi, KG MC, Lucknow	Cardiology	<a href="mailto:Drskdwivedi60@gmail.com">Drskdwivedi60@gmail.com</a>
15.	Dr. George Joseph, CMC, Vellore	Cardiology	<a href="mailto:Joseph59@gmail.com">Joseph59@gmail.com</a>
16.	Proff. G Karthikeyan AIIMS Delhi	Cardiology	<a href="mailto:karthik2010@gmail.com">karthik2010@gmail.com</a>
17.	Dr. Shiv Chaudhari, AIIMS	CTVS	<a href="mailto:shivchoudhary@hotmail.com">shivchoudhary@hotmail.com</a>
18.	Maj. Gen. Gautam Ganguli, CTC, AFMC	CTVS	<a href="mailto:gautampurna@gmail.com">gautampurna@gmail.com</a>
19.	Dr. Reva Tripathi, MAMC Delhi	Obs/Gyn	<a href="mailto:revatripathi@gmail.com">revatripathi@gmail.com</a>
20.	Dr. Vinita Das, KGMC, Lucknow	Obs/Gyn	<a href="mailto:das_lko@yahoo.com">das_lko@yahoo.com</a>
21.	Dr. Rajdeep Singh, MAMC	General Surgery	<a href="mailto:rajdeep.mamc@gmail.com">rajdeep.mamc@gmail.com</a>
22.	Dr. Virinder Kumar Bansal, AIIMS, Delhi	General Surgery	<a href="mailto:drvkbansal@gmail.com">drvkbansal@gmail.com</a>
23.	Prof. Dr. Binod Khaitan, AIIMS Delhi	Dermatology	<a href="mailto:binodkhaitan@hotmail.com">binodkhaitan@hotmail.com</a>

24.	Prof. Dr. Deepika Pandhi, UCMS, Delhi	Dermatology	<a href="mailto:pandhi.deepika@gmail.com">pandhi.deepika@gmail.com</a>
25.	Dr. Vishesh Jain, AIIMS, New Delhi		<a href="mailto:dr.vishesh79@gmail.com">dr.vishesh79@gmail.com</a>
26.	Proff. D K Gupta Pead. Institute Noida	Paediatrics Surgery	<a href="mailto:profdkgupta@gmail.com">profdkgupta@gmail.com</a>
27.	Dr. Sandeep Agrawala, AIIMS, New Delhi	Paediatrics Surgery	<a href="mailto:sandpagr@hotmail.com">sandpagr@hotmail.com</a>
28.	Dr. S S Kale, AIIMS	Neurosurgery	<a href="mailto:hodneurosurgery@yahoo.com">hodneurosurgery@yahoo.com</a>
29.	Dr. Deepak Agarwal Trauma AIIMS Delhi	Neurosurgery	<a href="mailto:drdeepak@gmail.com">drdeepak@gmail.com</a>
30.	Dr. Sunil Singh, KGMC	Neurosurgery	<a href="mailto:drsksingh2k@gmail.com">drsksingh2k@gmail.com</a>
31.	Dr. Lalit Kumar, AIIMS	Oncology & Hematology	<a href="mailto:lalitaiims@yahoo.com">lalitaiims@yahoo.com</a>
32.	Dr. Sudeep Gupta, TMC, Mumbai	Oncology & Hematology	<a href="mailto:sudeepgupta04@yahoo.com">sudeepgupta04@yahoo.com</a>
33.	Proff. S. C. Goel BHU	Orthopedics	<a href="mailto:drscgoel@outlook.com">drscgoel@outlook.com</a>
34.	Proff. R. K.Arya Safderganj	Orthopedics	<a href="mailto:draryark@gmail.com">draryark@gmail.com</a>
35.	Prof. P.P.Kotwal, AIIMS	Orthopedics	<a href="mailto:prakash.kotwal@gmail.com">prakash.kotwal@gmail.com</a>
36.	Prof. Anil Bhansali, PGIMER	Endocrinology	<a href="mailto:anilbhansaliendocrine@gmail.com">anilbhansaliendocrine@gmail.com</a>
37.	Dr. BN Gangadhar, NIMHANS	Psychiatry	<a href="mailto:kalyanybg@yahoo.com">kalyanybg@yahoo.com</a>
38.	Dr. Suresh Vasistha gurgoan	GI surgoen	<a href="mailto:sureshvasistha@gmail.com">sureshvasistha@gmail.com</a>
39.	Dr. Peush Sahni, AIIMS	GI Surgery	<a href="mailto:peush_sahni@hotmail.com">peush_sahni@hotmail.com</a>

40.	Dr. Sanjay Jain, PGI, Chandigarh	Internal Medicine	<a href="mailto:sanjayvanita@yahoo.com">sanjayvanita@yahoo.com</a>
41.	Dr. Pramod Garg, AIIMS	Gastroenterolo gy	<a href="mailto:pgarg10@hotmail.com">pgarg10@hotmail.com</a>
42.	Prof. P.P.Kotwal, AIIMS	Orthopeadic	<a href="mailto:prakash.kotwal@gmail.com">prakash.kotwal@gmail.com</a>
43.	Dr. Alok Thakar, AIIMS, Delhi	ENT	<a href="mailto:drathakar@gmail.com">drathakar@gmail.com</a>
44.	Dr. Anupam Mishra, KGMC	ENT	<a href="mailto:amishra_ent@yahoo.com">amishra_ent@yahoo.com</a>
45.	Dr. Prem Sagar	ENT	<a href="mailto:sagardrpm@gmail.com">sagardrpm@gmail.com</a>
46.	Dr. N. N. mathur Director, Safdarjung hospital	ENT	<a href="mailto:drnnmathur@gmail.com">drnnmathur@gmail.com</a>
47.	Dr DJ Christopher, CMC Vellore	Pulmology	<a href="mailto:djchris@cmcvellore.ac.in">djchris@cmcvellore.ac.in</a>
48.	Dr SK Jindal, Professor, PGIMER, Chandigarh	Pulmology	<a href="mailto:dr.skjindal@gmail.com">dr.skjindal@gmail.com</a>
49.	Dr. Shalabh, Safdarjung Hospital	Plastic/Burm	<a href="mailto:shalabhkumar01@gmail.com">shalabhkumar01@gmail.com</a>
50.	Proff. Gyanendra Kumar Jhasi	Mental	<a href="mailto:drgk7@yahoo.co.in">drgk7@yahoo.co.in</a>
51.	Dr. Varsha	Opth/ Health	<a href="mailto:drvarsha@rediffmail.com">drvarsha@rediffmail.com</a>
52.	Dr. Veena Singh	Paediatrics	<a href="mailto:veenasinghgupta@gmail.com">veenasinghgupta@gmail.com</a>
53.	Dr. Vivak Gupta	Surgery	<a href="mailto:vivekgupta@hotmail.com">vivekgupta@hotmail.com</a>
54.	Dr. Rajesh Kumar		<a href="mailto:dr.rajeshkumar@gmail.com">dr.rajeshkumar@gmail.com</a>

55.	Dr. Sanjay Chaturvedi	Community medicine	<a href="mailto:scnd87@gmail.com">scnd87@gmail.com</a>
56.	Proff. Piyush	Paediatrics	<a href="mailto:prof.piyush.gupta@gmail.com">prof.piyush.gupta@gmail.com</a>
57.	Dr Margeyi Mehta	Pathologist, Master in Biochemistry & Quality	<a href="mailto:shimmerm@gmail.com">shimmerm@gmail.com</a>
58.	Dr Prashant Kelkar	Paediatrics & Quality	<a href="mailto:prashantkelkar@jnport.gov.in">prashantkelkar@jnport.gov.in</a> <a href="mailto:pskelkar@hotmail.com">pskelkar@hotmail.com</a>

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