

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) regarding Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi (RAN)

Q1. What is Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi (RAN)

Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi (RAN) was set up on 13.01.1997 with initial contribution of Rs.5.0 crore made by Ministry of Health & Family Welfare. The Fund could also be subscribed by individuals in India or abroad with the approval of Foreign Contribution Regulation (FCR) Act. Corporate Bodies in private or public sector, philanthropic organizations and all contribution made to RAN are exempted from payment of income tax under Section 80-G Income Tax Act 1961.

Q.2. Who is eligible to avail financial assistance under RAN

Financial assistance is provided to patients, living **below poverty line** and who are suffering from major life threatening disease, to receive medical treatment.

Q. 3. How the Below Poverty Line (BPL) status is established.

BPL status is decided on the basis of income limit prescribed by the Planning Commission from time to time (**Annexure-III**).

Q.4. Which hospitals/organization provide treatment under RAN.

Patients seeking Medical treatment at any of the super specialty hospitals/institution or other Government hospitals are eligible to receive financial assistance under RAN. **No grant is released to patients seeking treatment at private hospitals.**

Q.5. Whether a patient can seek assistance twice under RAN.

Financial assistance is released in the form of **“one time Grant” only** under RAN.

Q.6 What is the limit of financial assistance for treatment under RAN.

Upto Rs. 10.00 Lakh can be sanctioned to one patient. However, a Technical Committee has been constituted to scrutinize each case and recommend quantum of financial assistance.

Q.7 Whether Central /State Government /PSU employees are eligible for financial assistance.

No

Q.8 Whether re-imburement of medical expenditure already incurred is permissible under RAN.

Re-imburement of Medical Expenditure already incurred shall not be permissible. However, in those cases of cancer patients, found eligible for financial assistance under RAN, medical treatment/operation in the interim period, between date of receipt of application form for assistance under Ran (complete in all respects) and date of communication of sanction for financial assistance under RAN, is permissible for assistance under RAN, within the sanctioned limit. Accordingly, reimbursement shall be allowed, of medical expenses already borne by the cancer patient and paid to the hospital/institute concerned within the sanctioned limit. Reimbursement of medical expenditure, of those cases of cancer patients, already incurred prior to date of receipt of

application form (complete in all respects) for financial assistance under RAN, shall not be permissible.

Q.9 Whether common disease for which treatment is available free of cost in Government hospitals are covered under RAN.

Diseases of common nature and disease for which treatment is available free of cost under other health Scheme/programme are **not eligible for grants** under RAN.

Q.10 Whether State Government are also operating such fund.

All State Governments except Meghalaya and Nagaland have set up Illness Assistance Fund in their respective States/UTs. Grant-in-aid is released to each of the States/UTs by Central Government under RAN, where such funds have been set up. The Grant-in-aid to States/UTs would be to the extent of 50% of the contributions made by the States/UTs subject to a minimum of Rs. 5.0 crore to States with larger population and population below poverty line and Rs.2.0 crore to other States. Financial assistance to patients living in their respective States/UTs upto Rs.1.50 lakh in individual cases is available under the Illness Fund at state/UTs level. Where quantum of assistance sought is more than Rs.1.50 lakh, all such cases are to be forwarded to the Central Government.

Q.11 What is the constitution of the Technical Committee of RAN.

The Technical Committee consists of

1. Spl. DG (Senior most), DGHS,
2. Economic Adviser,
3. Medical Superintendent, Dr. RML Hospital, New Delhi,
4. HOD, Cardiology, AIIMS, New Delhi,
5. HOD, Haematology, AIIMS, New Delhi,
6. HOD, Medical Oncology, Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi.

Q.12. Whether any Management Committee has been constituted for managing affairs of RAN.

RAN is managed by a Management Committee consisting of the following members :

1. Union Health Minister ó Chairman,
2. Additional Secretary(Health)- Member,
3. Spl. DG, DGHS, - Member,
4. Economic Adviser ó Member.
5. CCA, M/o Health & FW ó Treasurer.

Q.13. Whether any list of diseases has been prepared for treatment under RAN

An illustrative list of diseases has been prepared and is available on the website of Ministry of Health & Family Welfare : www.mohfw.nic.in under head óMajor Programmesö. The list is also modified from time to time.

Q.14 How the RAN is funded by the Central Government.

Budgetary provisions are made to fund the RAN Scheme by the Central Government.

Q.15 Whether the funds released by the Central Government are audited.

Fund released by the Central Government are audited by the Chartered Accountants. Audit Report submitted by them is sent to the Office of the Director General of Audit for conducting further audit. The audit report is also laid on the Tables of both the Houses of the Parliament.

Q.16 Whether any application form has been prescribed for seeking treatment under RAN.

An application form has been prescribed for this purpose, which is available free of cost and can also be downloaded from the website of this Ministry.

Q.17 What is the procedure to apply for availing assistance under RAN.

- (i) Application in prescribed format duly signed/stamped by the treating doctor and Head of Department and countersigned by the Medical Superintendent from the Government hospital from where the patient is receiving treatment, should be submitted to the Section Officer, Grants Section, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Room No. 541- A wing, Nirman Bhavan, New Delhi-110011.
- (ii) Monthly income of the patient/parents duly certified by the Block/Mandal Development Officer/ Tehsildar/ SDM/ Special Officer of Municipal Board/ District Officer, certifying that the beneficiary belongs to a family living below poverty line in the area of their jurisdiction indicating source of income . The original certificate is required for the purpose.
- (iii) Copy of the Ration Card duly attested by a Gazetted Officer with official seal.

Q.18. What is the time limit set by the Grants section to process the request of the applicant for financial limit.

The application complete in all respect is processed with in a period of one month.

Q.19 Whether the grants are released in the name of the patients.

The grants are released to the Medical Superintendent of the hospital, where the patient is being treated.

Q.20 Whether visiting hours have been prescribed for the visitors.

The patients or their representative may visit Grants Section between 11 AM to 12 Noon on working days to enquire about status of their cases. In case they are not satisfied, they may also meet the Under Secretary (Grants) and Director (Grants) at the following address:

Director (Grants) Room No. 433-C, Nirman Bhavan, New Delhi- 110011	Under Secretary (Grants) Room No. 408-D, Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi-110011
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Q 21. Whether the officers concerned are available on phone:

The patients may also contact the officers concerned on phone. The details are given below :

Director (Grants)
Tel : 2306 3481

Under Secretary (Grants)
Tel : 23061203

Q.22 Whether the guidelines regulating RAN and other eligibility conditions for release of grants to the patients are available on website

The detailed guidelines regulating RAN are available at website www.mohfw.nic.in under head "Major Programmes".

Q.23 Whether list of beneficiaries along with amount sanctioned to them is displayed on website.

The list of beneficiaries under RAN is also displayed at the website www.mohfw.nic.in under head "Major Programmes".

Q.24 Whether any cancer patient fund has been set up within RAN.

Health Minister's Cancer Patient Fund (HMCPF) within RAN has been established as a separate corpus fund, which is also managed by the Managing Committee and Technical Committee of RAN including a co-opted member, who is cancer expert working in DGHS. An amount of Rs. 100.00 crore has been placed in the corpus fund and the earning from the corpus fund accrued out of interest is not used for administrative cost.

Q.25. Details of Cancer institute, who provide treatment to cancer patients.

27 Regional Cancer Centres have been authorized for treatment of cancer patients. List of this Institute is available at the website www.mohfw.nic.in. under head "Major Programmes".

Q.26. What are the eligibility conditions for seeking treatment under HMCPF.

- i) Patients living poverty line and suffering from cancer are eligible.
- ii) Assistance is available for treatment at 27 Regional Cancer Centres only.
- iii) Centre/State and PSU employees are not eligible for financial assistance from HMCPF.
- iv) Re-imburement of Medical Expenditure already incurred shall not be permissible. However, in those cases of cancer patients, found eligible for financial assistance under RAN, medical treatment/operation in the interim period between date of receipt of application form for assistance under RAN (complete in all respects) and date of communication of sanction for financial assistance under RAN, is permissible for assistance under RAN, within the sanctioned limit. Accordingly, reimbursement shall be allowed, of medical expenses already borne by the cancer patient and paid to the hospital/institute concerned, within the sanctioned limit. Reimbursement of medical expenditure, of those cases of cancer patients, already incurred prior to date of receipt of application form (complete in all respects) for financial assistance under RAN, shall not be permissible.
- v) Grants from HMCPF will not be available for treatment of cancer, where free treatment is available.

Q.27 How much assistance is given to each patient suffering from Cancer.

No upper limit has been fixed for availing financial assistance by the patient suffering from cancer. However, a Technical Committee has been constituted to scrutinize each case and recommend quantum of financial assistance.

Q. 28 Whether any financial powers have been delegated to the Regional Cancer Centres.

Directors/Medical Superintendents of the Regional Cancer Centres concerned have been delegated powers to provide financial assistance for treatment up to Rs. 2 lakh in each case. Cases involving treatment above Rs. 2 lakh are referred to Ministry of Health & Family Welfare for sanction of financial assistance.

Q. 29 Whether any advance funds are placed at the disposal of the Regional Cancer Centres for treatment of cancer patients.

Revolving Fund have been set up at the regional Cancer Centres (RCC) and funds upto Rs. 50 lakh are placed at the disposal of the Director/Medical Superintendent of the RCC concerned. The funds are replenished as and when utilization certificate and list of beneficiaries are submitted by the RCC concerned and found to be in order.