

Government of India
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
Department of Health and Family Welfare

Monthly Cabinet Summary, April 2023

Important policy decision taken and Major achievements during the month:

1. Progress of Flagship Programmes:

Against the target of 1,50,000 Ayushman Bharat – Health & Wellness Centres (AB-HWCs), 1,59,585 AB-HWCs had been operationalized till 30.04.2023.

2. Legislative and Regulative measures:

2.1 Statutory Order (S.O.) 1928 (E) dated 25.04.2023 was issued regarding testing COVID-19 kit at National Institute of Biologicals, Noida by amending the notification of Government of India number S.O. 2237(E) dated 01.06.2018 under sub rule of (2) of Rule 19 of the Medical Devices Rules, 2017.

2.2 Circular dated 12.04.2023 was issued regarding Licensing Regime of Class C & D non-notified medical devices which are currently under mandatory registration, as per General Statutory Rules (G.S.R.) 102(E) dated 11.02.2020, under Medical Devices Rules 2017, with effect from 01.10.2023.

3. Miscellaneous

3.1 The Cabinet, in its meeting held on 26.04.2023, approved the proposal for establishment of 157 new nursing colleges in the country.

3.2 As on 30.04.2023 more than 220.66 crore COVID-19 vaccine doses have been administered across the country among eligible population aged 12 years and above.

3.3 India's progress on Childhood Pneumonia was presented by the Indian delegation at 2nd Global Forum on Childhood Pneumonia on 26-27th April, 2023 at Madrid, Spain.

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Monthly Cabinet Summary, May 2023

Important policy decision taken and Major achievements during the month:

1. Progress of Flagship Programmes:

Against the target of 1,50,000 Ayushman Bharat – Health & Wellness Centres (AB-HWCs), 1,59,642 AB-HWCs had been operationalized till 31.05.2023.

2. Legislative and Regulative measures:

2.1 Food Safety and Standards (Alcoholic Beverages) Amendment Regulations, 2023 related to standards of Mead (Honey Wine), Craft Beer, Indian Liquors and definition of Low Alcoholic Beverages / RTD, Wine based Beverages and Country Liquors etc. was notified on 11.05.2023.

2.2 Guidelines vide O.M. dated 01.05.2023 were issued for availing treatment under CGHS and CS(MA) Rules, 1944, for Occupational Therapy, Speech Therapy and Applies Behavior Analysis (ABA) based behavioural therapy in individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) / Non-autistic person / children with ADHD and specific learning disabilities.

2.3 Guidelines vide O.M. dated 16.05.2023 were issued regarding reimbursement of Continuous Subcutaneous Insulin Infusion (CSII) Pump Therapy under CGHS / CS(MA) Rules, 1944.

3. Miscellaneous

3.1 A review meeting on 22.05.2023 was taken by the Hon'ble Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare on National Center for Vector Borne Disease Control (NCVBDC) and various programmatic interventions implemented by NCVBDC.

3.2 To facilitated comprehensive coverage of all Non-Communicable Disease under National Program for Prevention and Control of Cancer, Diabetes, Cardiovascular Diseases and Strokes (NPCDCS), the Programme had been renamed as “National Programme for Prevention & Control of Non Communicable Diseases (NP-NCD)”.

3.3 Clarification vide O.M. dated 01.05.2023 was issued regarding validity of CGHS Card in all Wellness Centres in India.

3.4 Clarification vide O.M. dated 08.05.2023 was issued regarding submission of Medical Reimbursement Claim (MRC) by CGHS pensioner beneficiaries (principal card holders) to CGHS in the city where treatment was taken.

3.5 Clarification vide O.M.dated 10.05.2023 was issued regarding reiteration of instructions to empaneled Health Care Organizations (i.e., hospitals, diagnostic centres, etc) to provide consultation / treatment / investigations for Hon'ble Members of Parliament on cashless basis.

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Monthly Cabinet Summary, June 2023

Important policy decision taken and Major achievements during the month:

1. Progress of Flagship Programmes:

Against the target of 1,50,000 Ayushman Bharat – Health & Wellness Centres (AB-HWCs), 1,60,002 AB-HWCs have been operationalized till 30.06.2023.

2. Legislative and Regulative measures:

2.1 General Statutory Rules (G.S.R.) 409 (E) dated 02.06.2023 was issued for amendment in Rule 18 and 19 of the Medical Devices Rules, 2017 for notifying State Medical Device Testing Laboratory for the purpose of testing and evaluation of Medical Devices.

2.2. Statutory Orders 2394 (E) to 2407 (E) dated 02.06.2023 were issued regarding banning of 14 Fixed Drugs Combinations (FDCs).

3. Miscellaneous

3.1 Hon'ble Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare reviewed preparation for prevention and control of Vector Borne Diseases including Malaria with 22 States on 30.06.2023, in view of the onset of Monsoon.

3.2 Meeting of Hon'ble Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare with Mr. Hayan Abdul Ghani Al-Swad, Hon'ble Deputy Prime Minister for Energy Affairs and Minister of Oil of Iraq was held on 20.06.2023.

3.3 1st Joint Working Group on Health Meeting between India and Kyrgyz Republic was held on 12.06.2023.

3.5. 3rd Joint Working Group on Health Meeting between India and Denmark was held on 28.06.2023.

3.6 Clarification vide O.M. dated 17.06.2023 was issued regarding continuation of CGHS facilities when Central Government employees are posted abroad.

3.7. Clarification vide O.M.dated 30.06.2023 was issued regarding treatment of pensioners and other eligible categories of beneficiaries on cashless basis at AIIMS (New Delhi), JIPMER(Puducherry) and PGIMER (Chandigarh).

Government of India
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Monthly Cabinet Summary, July 2023

Important policy decision taken and Major achievements during the month:

1. Progress of Flagship Programmes:

- 1.1 Against the target of 1,50,000 Ayushman Bharat – Health & Wellness Centres (AB-HWCs), 1,60,816 AB-HWCs have been operationalized till 31.07.2023.
- 1.2 Sickle Cell Anemia Elimination Mission was launched by the Hon'ble Prime Minister from Madhya Pradesh on 01.07.2023.
- 1.3 During July 2023, a total 29.89 lakh Ayushman Cards had been created in the country and approximately 14.2 Lakh hospital admissions were authorized under Ayushman Bharat - Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana.

2. Legislative and Regulative measures:

Corrigenda No. STD/FA/A-1.30/No.1/2020-FSSAI on Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food additives) Second Amendment Regulations, 2023 was notified on 05.07.2023.

3. Miscellaneous:

- 3.1 On 27.07.2023, the Hon'ble Prime Minister inaugurated five Medical Colleges at Chittorgarh, Dholpur, Sirohi, Sikar and Sri Ganganagar approved under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Establishment of new Medical Colleges attached with District / Referral Hospitals. Foundation stones were also laid for seven new Medical Colleges in the Districts of Baran, Bundi, Jhunjhunu, Karauli, Sawai Madhopur, Jaisalmer and Tonk approved under the said Scheme.
- 3.2 The meeting of the Central Council of Health and Family Welfare (CCHFW) was organized on 14.07.2023 and 15.07.2023 at Dehradun, Uttarakhand under the chairmanship of the Hon'ble Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare.
- 3.3 Second Joint Working Group Meeting between India and Maldives was held (in VC mode) on 05.07.2023.
- 3.4 First Joint Working Group Meeting between India and Kazakhstan was held (in VC mode) on 14.07.2023.

Government of India
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Monthly Cabinet Summary, August 2023

Important policy decision taken and Major achievements during the month:

1. Progress of Flagship Programmes:

1.1 Against the target of 1,50,000 Ayushman Bharat – Health & Wellness Centres (AB-HWCs), 1,61,523 AB-HWCs had been operationalized till 31.08.2023.

1.2 Under the National Sickle Cell Anaemia Elimination Mission, a total of 37,98,676 persons in 17 identified States had been screened and a total of 15,05,235 Sickle Cell cards had been distributed till 31.08.2023.

1.3 During the month of August 2023, a total of 41 lakh Ayushman Cards had been created in the country and approximately 16.3 lakh hospital admissions were authorised under Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana.

2. Legislative and Regulative measures:

2.1 Guidelines under Regulation 10 of the Establishment of New Medical Institutions, Starting of New Medical Courses, Increase of Seats of Existing Courses and Assessment and Rating Regulations, 2023 in short (UG-MSR 2023) and Regulation 19 of the Graduate Medical Education Regulations 2023, were notified on 16.08.2023.

2.2 In order to bring transformative changes to the Nursing education and practice landscape, the National Nursing and Midwifery Commission (NNMC) Bill, 2023 had been passed by the Parliament. The National Nursing and Midwifery Commission Act, 2023 had been notified on 14.08.2023.

2.3 In a significant step towards enhancing healthcare quality and aligning dental education with global standards, the National Dental Commission Bill, 2023 had been passed by the Parliament. The National Dental Commission Act had been notified on 11.08.2023.

2.4 The Pharmacy (Amendment) Bill, 2023 was brought for insertion of Section 32C in the Pharmacy Act, 1948, with regards to special provision relating to persons registered or qualified under the Jammu and Kashmir Pharmacy Act, 2011. The proposed amendment was to give an opportunity of registration under the Pharmacy Act, 1948 to those persons who were possessing approved qualification (Medical Assistant/ Pharmacists) under earlier the Jammu & Kashmir Pharmacy Act, 2011. The Pharmacy (Amendment) Bill, 2023 was passed by the Parliament during the Monsoon Session of 2023 and had been given assent by the President of India on 15.08.2023.

3. Miscellaneous:

3.1 G20 Health Working Group & Health Ministers' Meetings were held from 17.08.2023 to 19.08.2023 at Gandhinagar, Gujarat:

(a) The Hon'ble Prime Minister of India delivered a Special Address (through video conference) during the combined Session with delegations for the Global Traditional Medicine Summit.

(b) The Health Ministers' Meeting witnessed participation of the Hon'ble Health Ministers from 29 countries (14 G20 members, 7 Invited Countries and 8 other countries) invited for G20 Health Ministers' Meeting, Global Traditional Medicine Summit, and Advantage Healthcare Events.

(c) Director General, WHO and more than 20 International Organizations in Health and Indian & Global Health Sector Organizations also attended the event.

(d) 'Global Initiative on Digital Health' was launched during the G20 Health Ministers' Meeting collectively by the Hon'ble Minister for Health and Family Welfare and Director General, WHO.

(e) Main outcome of the G20 Health Ministers' Meeting are as under:

(i) G20 member nations committed to strengthening the Global Health Architecture and emphasized equitable access to vaccines, therapeutics, diagnostics, and medical countermeasures, particularly in Low and Middle income Countries (LMICs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDs).

(ii) G20 member nations committed to tackling Anti-Microbial Resistance (AMR) comprehensively following the One Health approach.

(iii) The member nations recognized the potential role of evidence-based Traditional and Complementary Medicine (T&CM) in health.

(iv) The member nations further acknowledged that India's G20 presidency is carrying forward the discussions on the need for adaptable, affordable, agile, sustainable, inclusive, effective, efficient, accountable and equitable access to medical countermeasures.

(v) The member nations realized the significance of digital health and health data modernization in strengthening healthcare systems and making health services accessible and equitable to all.

3.2 During the month of August 2023, four meetings were held by the Hon'ble Minister for Health and Family Welfare with the Hon'ble Health Ministers of Guyana, Australia and Somalia and also with the Ambassador of USA to India.

3.3 Hon'ble Minister for Health and Family Welfare held bilateral meetings with the Hon'ble Health Ministers / Heads of the Organizations from the Saudi Arabia, Germany,

Japan, USA, Singapore, Egypt, Nepal, Indonesia, European Union and WHO during the G20 Deputies and Health Ministers Meeting during the G20 Health Ministers' Meeting from 17.08.2023 to 19.08.2023.

3.4 South East Asia Regional high-level meeting attended by 6 SEARO countries was held on 16th & 17th August 2023 with an overall objective to undertake political commitment towards ending tuberculosis in the South East Asia Region. The event witnessed a significant milestone in signing of the '*Gandhinagar Declaration*', the joint declaration by the Health Ministers and WHO SEARO which recognizes the progress made in the South East Asia Region and expresses confidence that the WHO SEARO Region will be able to end tuberculosis by 2030.

3.5 To combat the issue of counterfeit medicines in India, the Government of India has mandated that a QR Code be affixed to on the label of top 300 pharmaceutical brands available in Indian market with effect from 01.08.2023. The incorporation of QR coding will facilitate tracking and tracing in the supply chain under Drugs Rules, 1945.

3.6 Revised guidelines for issue of Anti-Cancer Medicines under CGHS was issued on 25.08.2023.

3.7 Under Mission Recruitment of the Government of India, 3185 offer of appointments were given to the recruited candidates by various AIIMSs, Central Government Hospitals and other Institutes / Organisations under the Department of Health & Family Welfare during the month of August, 2023.