



Date: 06.04.2020

To  
Shri. Narendra Modi Ji  
Honorable Prime Minister of India

Dear Sir,

**Sub: Role of private healthcare in combating COVID-19 crisis.**

It is a matter of great pride that the Government of India has drawn appreciation from the World Health Organization for the manner in which it is handling the COVID - 19 crisis.

The Association of Healthcare Providers India [AHPI] representing the vast majority of the private healthcare setups is working hand in hand with the Government of India and the respective State Governments in preparing to handle any adverse situation that may arise, in relation to the Covid-19 crisis, as the days progress.

In this connection, AHPI would like to place the following before the Government in order to help strengthen our joint efforts and thereby ensure optimal outcome in the best interest of our nation.

At the moment, the fever clinics are being efficiently managed in conjunction with the private health care set ups, all across the country and the services are being offered as part of the corporate social responsibility (free of cost).

As per the triaging concept, patients visiting the fever clinics could be:-

1. Some would be quarantined for a defined period (in hostels, schools, choultry etc, and it is requested that hospitals are used for this purpose)
2. Some would need to be hospitalised and may not need oxygen.
3. Some would need to be hospitalised and would need oxygen.
4. Some would need to be hospitalised and would also be in need of ventilatory support.

AHPI would like to place on record its sincere appreciation to the Government for having taken the decision to set up dedicated Covid-19 hospitals all across the Country, preventing mixing up of COVID and non COVID patients as has been done in Karnataka.

Also, at the district level many private medical colleges with adequate infrastructure and man power are available which can also utilized for this purpose.

In event of a situation, wherein such Governmental Institutions, medical college hospitals and dedicated private Covid-19 hospitals are fully occupied with patients, private hospitals with adequate facilities can also be utilized for admitting and treating patients. It is requested that in order to ensure continuity of service, the medical college hospitals, dedicated COVID hospitals in the private sector, and those private



# ASSOCIATION OF HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS - INDIA

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hospitals which would be needed to treat the overflow of COVID patients should be supported by the Government.

This can be done in a manner that the treatment being rendered to the below poverty line (AYUSHMAN Bharat) patients at CGHS rates and for the different categories as given below: -

1. Below Poverty Line [BPL], patients referred through Government hospitals, the Government may reimburse to the hospital at CGHS rates for the various categories.
2. Above Poverty Line [APL] patients can come through the Government, or directly and payment to be made directly to the hospitals at hospital rates.

It is also requested that the government should ensure adequate free supply of PPE's (Personal Protective Equipment's) and testing for all Covid-19 patients in the private hospitals, in the best interest of the safety of the healthcare workers and the community.

Further, in the event of the Government requiring to take over a private hospital completely for Covid-19 activity, it is requested that all relevant expenses including, services of the existing staff be utilized in total and remunerated as per the governmental norms. While taking over private hospitals, single speciality centres such as dialysis, cancer, maternity etc should be excluded in the best interest of these sick Non COVID patients.

The COVID-19 crisis has created a situation where in other Non-Covid sick patients are unable to travel to the hospitals, both out of fear and non-availability of transport, the Government should also make arrangements to facilitate such patients to visit hospitals as and when required.

The private healthcare setup is fully committed to the efforts of the Government of India and the State Governments in combating Covid-19 crisis.

Thanking You

Dr. Girdhar J Gyani  
Director General, AHPI

Dr. Alex Thomas  
President, AHPI

Copy To:

1. Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Hon'ble Union Minister, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, GOI
2. Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, Hon'ble Finance Minister, GOI
3. Ms. Preeti Sudan, Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
4. Shri. C K Mishra, Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and Chairman of the MHA Empowered Group on 'Availability of hospitals, isolation and quarantine facilities, disease surveillance, testing and critical care training'.

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