



Minutes of the zoom video call meeting held on the 15th of April 2020 at 03:00 pm between AHPI State Chapters office bearers, to discuss regarding the overall situation of COVID-19 in their respective States

Participants

1. Dr. Alex Thomas, President, AHPI
2. Dr. Girdhar Gyani, Director General, AHPI
3. Dr. VC Shanmuganandan, Advisor, AHPI
4. Dr. Madan Gopal Seni, Senior Consultant, NITI Aayog
5. Dr. CM Bhagat, President, Delhi NCR Chapter
6. Dr. Sanjeev Singh, Secretary, Delhi NCR Chapter
7. Dr. Keyur Parikh, Gujarat Chapter
8. Dr. Zainab Zaidi, Secretary, Uttar Pradesh Chapter
9. Dr. Bishnu Panigrahi, President, Odisha Chapter
10. Ms. Nilanjana Mukherjee, Secretary, Odisha Chapter
11. Dr. Anoop Hajela, President, Madhya Pradesh Chapter
12. Dr. Rahul Khare, Secretary, Madhya Pradesh Chapter
13. Dr. Satyajit Singh, President, Bihar Chapter
14. Dr. Santhosh, Secretary, Bihar Chapter
15. Dr. Gurushankar, President, Tamil Nadu Chapter
16. Dr. Raju Sivasamy, Secretary, Tamil Nadu Chapter
17. Dr. M I Sahadhulla, President, Kerala Chapter
18. Dr. Naresh Shetty, President, Karnataka Chapter
19. Dr. Naveen Thomas, Secretary, Karnataka Chapter
20. Dr. Alok Swain, Chattisgarh Chapter
21. Mr. Jogesh Gambhir, President, Jharkhand Chapter
22. Dr. Saumitra Bharadhwaj, President, West Bengal Chapter
23. Ms. Suparna Senguptha, Secretary, West Bengal Chapter
24. Dr. Amandeep Kaur, President, Northzone Chapter
25. Mr. Joy das Gupta, Secretary, North Zone Chapter
26. Dr. Vikas Swarnkar, President, Rajasthan Chapter
27. Dr. Ajith Kumar Bellamkonda, Northeast Chapter

Dr. Madan Gopal, NITI Aayog participated in the concall

Dr Shanmuganandan introduced the participants of the call and invited experts in the field, to brief about the protocols being followed for treating COVID patients (mild, moderate and those admitted in the ICU and requiring ventilator support).

Dr Sanjeev Singh from Delhi mentioned that the Indian Society of Critical Care Medicine have come out with guidelines towards managing the COVID patients. 81% of the patient with mild symptoms



of fever cough and running nose should be managed with paracetamol and other medicines and where as productive cough was being taken as one of the indicators and for breathlessness broncho dilators was being added. Triaging criteria is being set by ISCCM and is what is being followed in Delhi hospitals.

In the state of Maharashtra cases which had come initially were advanced, and that is why the mortality rate was high. Positive patients who are asymptomatic go to a Covid care centre. Avoid early intubation and encourage non invasive ventilator as and when required

Dr Sahadulla agreed with what was being said by Dr Sanjeev and went on to add that he did not agree with 100% mortality of patients on ventilator.

Dr Madan Gopal had few questions on what is a mortality rate for which Dr Sanjeev replied that it is 60% right now and more data needs to come, in to be more affirmative.

Dr. Madan also asked as to what was the average stay in the ICU for which the experts replied that it was 13 to 14 days, but some patients may require a maximum period of 21 days in the ICU.

Dr Sujit mentioned that 45 to 50% was the mortality rate in Maharashtra depending on the staging of when the patient comes in and reports into ICU were a bit advanced.

Dr Madan wanted to know regarding steroids being used for treating severely ill Covid 19 patients and positive pressure oxygen being used for treatment. Dr Sanjeev was requested to share details regarding the same.

Dr Madan was happy to interact with the expert and excused himself as he had to attend an other meeting.

Dr Alex briefed on the closure of non covid hospitals that AHPI had taken up the matter with the Union Health Secretary and the Secretary immediately replied saying that an advisory will be issued soon.

The meeting continued where the states were asked to cover on three important agenda: Overall situation arising out of covid cases in the state; Financial hardship due to lock down and suggestions to overcome the situation; Administrative issues like HR and availability of PPE's and testing and closure of hospitals in the respective State's.

Delhi: Financial hardship are being faced except for hospitals what were doing elective surgeries. Regarding PPE Dr Bhagat said that Hospitals should be encouraged to make protective gear with recyclable material and sterilize, so that the biomedical waste is also reduced.

Kerala: No hospital have been closed because of the financial problems as yet. Situation on the ground is that lot of patients are waiting for elective treatment. PPE is adequate in government sector, but there are problems being faced with regards to the mask.

Madhya Pradesh: Some of the death in Bhopal where of short history and the patients died in few days. It was noted that the viral load is high in some of these cases. There is shortage of PPE, the government has procured for itself but not released to the private players. Dr Alex suggested that AHPI can connect with suppliers.



Maharashtra: Overall situation is bleak with 2690 covid cases. The main reason being the inflow of people who travelled from Dubai which was unchecked and uncontrolled and have landed in various parts and areas of Mumbai which led to the rise in numbers. Financial hardship is certainly there and the private hospitals are facing the crunch. Dr Sujit said that next week or so the mortality rate should come down. He also said that there has been detailed discussion with decision makers and clear guidelines that symptomatic patients should be tested.

Uttar Pradesh: Shutdown of few hospitals because of covid cases. Patients are being referred to Government hospitals. The private hospitals are not taking symptomatic patients fearing shutdown. No PPE supply from government so far. Fever clinics or not being promoted much and labs are not being used in private sector.

Dr. Hajela mentioned about pool testing was being done in Bhopal. Dr Alex mentioned that the Indian Institute of science and NCBS have the capacity to do the pool testing and is being considered by Government of Karnataka and ICMR also.

In Bihar the PPE's are in short supply.

Jharkhand: Hospitals are working only on 30% occupancy doctors are reluctant to come to OPD. Dr Alex appreciated Dr Jogesh for adding more hospitals in the state group.

Dr Alex added that there should be uniform decision on salary across the states. Dr Gyani and Dr Alex have contacted many of the hospital and some of the hospitals are paying full salaries of those who earn below Rs 27000 and for those between Rs 27 thousand to 50 thousand 10% was being deducted and salary above Rs 1Lakh 50% deduction. Dr Alex also mentioned that use of ESI allowance can also be availed of. He also mentioned that some place frontline workers are being paid more.

Dr Sahadulla requested AHPI to write to Health Minister or Health Secretary that the problems being faced by the private sector is being ignored and not being heard, as much as that of the other industries and requested this be highlighted at the earliest.

Karnataka: Dr Naresh mentioned that the state of Karnataka has been fortunate and that the number of Covid cases has not gone up. He also mentioned that what are the post covid precautions that needs to be followed while the hospitals are reopened post lockdown and suggested that there must be a standard operating procedure which has to be formulated on how the hospitals will work. So far no call has been taken regarding deductions of salaries. Dr. Naveen sent across guideline from University of Pennsylvania which might be relevant to those handling Covid cases.



Rajasthan: Dr Vikas mentioned that there were 1046 positive patients and 11 have died so far and also 39000 test have been done so far. Private lab to receive PCR permissions to do the testing and about 2000 samples have been received and is being done free of cost. Positive asymptomatic patients are being sent to ESI, Private hospital and government district hospital. Routine OPD or IPD, elective surgeries are being done in some of the hospitals and the PPE's are available.

Tamilnadu: Dr Guru mentioned that financial hardship are going up in the state of Tamilnadu and regarding testing all government hospital are doing the testing and few NABL labs are also doing testing. Dr Guru suggested that if we can take up with the Government to allow labs whose licence has lapsed in the immediate past year, more centres can offer testing facility. Permission was also given that AHPI TN chapter can join hands with other associations and represent to the state government.

West Bengal: Dr Soumitra mentioned that West Bengal has seen 197 cases till now and 7 deaths. He also mentioned that the declaration of death and even the positive cases in the state of West Bengal is being reported only by the Swasth bhawan. He also mentioned that some Frontline doctors are being quarantined and some hospitals have been sealed too. Good thing is funds are being released and went on to add insurance agencies are with funds now as the lockdown has reduced accidents etc, the claims were low and this is the best time to get the funds from the insurance agencies.

Orissa: Dr. Bishnu mentioned that there were 60 cases so far and things are under control in the state of Bihar. Government has dedicated hospitals and centres at small districts too. The Government has come up and identified hospitals in major cities in public-private partnership. With regards to PPE's prices are exorbitant and was requested if a capping can be done. Dr.Alex briefed that AHPI is coming up with the list of suppliers and will connect with them.

In the state of Chhattisgarh situation is stable, the government is doing the testing and as of now no shutdown of hospital. Shortage of testing kits is a problem.

North zone: 13 mortality, Government has earmarked certain hospitals as covid centres and few private hospitals also. Dr Amandeep mentioned that there was no standardization of the PPE. She also mentioned that payment from CGHS was received and insisted that IT refund process be initiated at the earliest. Dr Alex mentioned that he has already spoken to IRDA and will also take up this matter with the general insurance council and the income tax department. Dr Gyani emphasized again that other industries also highlighted the income tax refunds and this will be expedited very soon.

Dr. Guru Shankar mention that there was a drone company which can be considered for delivery of medicines and a request to the government can be sent regarding the same. Dr Guru to send details about the same

Dr. Gyani concluded the meeting with the vote of thanks.

Next zoom call to be scheduled on the 29th of April 2020.