



## **Minutes of the AHPI state chapter meeting held on 29th April 2020**

### **Participants**

Dr. Alex Thomas, President, AHPI  
Dr. Girdhar Gyani, Director General, AHPI  
Dr. VC Shanmuganandan, Advisor, AHPI  
Dr. CM Bhagat, President, Delhi NCR Chapter  
Dr. Sanjeev Singh, Secretary, Delhi NCR Chapter  
Dr. Sahadulla, President, Kerala Chapter  
Dr. Bishnu Prasad, President, Odisha Chapter  
Ms. Nilanjan, Secretary, Odisha Chapter  
Dr. Joy Das Gupta, Secretary, North Zone Chapter  
Dr. Saumitra Bharadwaj, President, West Bengal Chapter  
Mr. Santhosh Kumar, Secretary, Bihar Chapter  
Dr. Anoop Hajela, President, Madhya Pradesh Chapter  
Dr. Rahul Khare, Secretary, Madhya Pradesh Chapter  
Dr. Mohan Maharaj, Secretary, Andhra Chapter  
Mr. Jogesh Gambhir, President, Jharkhand Chapter  
Dr. Zainab Zaidi, Secretary, Uttar Pradesh Chapter  
Dr. Bharat Gadhavi, President, Gujarat Chapter  
Dr. Naresh Shetty, President, Karnataka Chapter  
Dr. Naveen Thomas, Secretary, Karnataka Chapter  
Dr. Sujit Chatterjee, President, Maharashtra Chapter  
Dr. Raju Sivasamy, Secretary, Tamilnadu Chapter  
Dr. Alok Swain, Secretary, Chattisgarh

Dr. Alex welcomed the participants and updated the week that was.

1. Letter to Chief Minister, Health Minister, and Health Secretary introducing the state chapter were ready and will be sent to the respective states.
2. Wrote to Union Health Secretary to come up with guidelines for Covid patients in a non Covid hospital.
3. Wrote to IRDA to facilitate and monitor the payments.
4. Dr. Gyani has had interaction with NITI Aayog to involve more of the services of private hospitals in the fight against COVID 19.
5. Dr. Bharat Gadhavi was welcomed as the President of Gujarat Chapter.

A consensus was taken to invite a chief guest / special invitee during the weekly call. The members agreed upon this.

### **Current situation in the state & How many private players were offering Covid services.**

**Andhra Pradesh:** The Government has not given permission to any private hospital to treat Covid patients. PPE's are sufficient and are in supply. Graded lifting of lockdown is being planned in the state.

**Delhi:** All districts are in Red zone and cases have increased. PPE's are not an issue. OPD's have opened up and the patients have started coming. Dr. Bhagat reiterated that the coordination between the Government and private is not firm.

**Jharkhand:** In the last one week the cases have doubled. PPE's and Mask are available, whereas testing is limited. 2 private hospitals have been set up as Covid hospitals, but so far no load of patients seen in these hospitals. Mr. Jogesh wanted to know the guidelines on how to open the hospitals, for which Dr. Alex mentioned that AHPI & PHFI is coming out with a SOP for post lockdown lifting and will be ready in 2 days.

Mr. Jogesh also wanted to get an idea on True NAT testing, for which Dr. Sahadulla reiterated that this testing which is designed in India is 97.3% highly sensitive test which has been accepted by ICMR, but if tested positive an RTPCR test is also required.

**Gujarat:** In Ahmedabad the cases are high, with 3 private hospitals given permission to treat Covid patients. No problems seen with the PPE's, but there is concern about the quality of PPE.

**North Zone:** In Punjab the number of cases has increased and the standardization of PPE's is still the issue. Dr. Amandeep impressed upon that guidelines for staff has to be there in Covid and Non Covid hospitals.

**Karnataka:** Dr. Naveen mentioned about the Obstetrics guidelines for screening before delivery and if turned positive the entire healthcare facility being shut down is not the answer. Dr. Alex mentioned that the issue was taken up with the Health secretary and was clarified that there was no intention of closing the hospitals.

Dr. Naresh mentioned that the situation in Karnataka was fine. One of the problems is that the PPE use is going up. In Karnataka the state scheme patients are seen for free and it was suggested to include the cost of the PPE also when we negotiate with the Government.

Also in Karnataka the Federation of Healthcare Association is going to write to CGHS/ECHS and insurance companies that the rates offered are low and no longer hold good. Some of the other demands are payments as per rack rates and within 48 hrs, and that payments have to be made for PPE separately. In connection with this Dr. Naresh suggested that we come with a standard for PPE usage for every surgery and procedure being done so that we don't end up with backlash from media. It was also suggested that the patient pays from the pocket for the PPE if the insurance is not covering for the same.

**Kerala:** Dr. Sahadullah briefed that the situation is under control. So far all cases are being seen by the Govt surveillance centers. He also mentioned that hospitals have to go back to normal functioning for financial sustainability. Regarding testing he suggested that ICMR has to approve some of the hospitals for testing.

Dr. Sahadulla had a reservation on how the media is going to take about the April month salary being reduced as many hospitals do not have means to pay the salary. The common thing thought of is to avoid cutting the salary of the category of the minimum wage workers, so that there will be no unrest among the nurses. He also mentioned that the Govt should support the private sector indirectly.

**Madhya Pradesh:** Dr. Hajela briefed that MP is currently the 5<sup>th</sup> highest positive cases in the country, however more patients are being discharged. Dr. Hajela raised a point that the Government was giving insurance to Journalists, and the same should also be followed to the doctors who are exposed to asymptomatic cases.

Regarding NABH renewals at present times, NABH can do away with the actual inspection for the time being. 4 private hospitals have been set apart for treating Covid patients. Teleconsultation has started and simple cases are being managed through teleconsultation.

Dr. Hajela highlighted an important issue that the PPE's appear to be non sterile. Dr. Gyani reiterated that there are only 2 labs which certify in India, SITRA & INMASS (DRDO).

**Maharashtra:** The highest positive cases in the country. Mortality has come down. The state has dedicated critical care beds available. Dr. Sujit mentioned that the Government is supporting the MSME and the benefit is also to come to the private sector too. GST /TDS waiver for sometime can help enormously. He quoted that the 2020 should redefine the importance of Healthcare in the country. Dr. Alex mentioned that at state level AHPI should follow up to get waivers on Electricity, water etc.

**TamilNadu:** The Covid cases are going up in TN and lot of emergency patients have started getting admitted in the hospitals. Not able to do much testing as the antibody test is stopped. PPE's are available whereas N95 mask and Respirators are not available.

**UP:** The 6<sup>th</sup> highest positive case in the country. Dr. Zainab mentioned that the challenge is the test done is 55 per million which is very low. PPE's are not freely available. Posters are being printed for general public awareness. Teleconsultation has started but not that active. The state has seen 70000 test so far, and the number of cases are increasing on a daily basis.

**West Bengal:** Kolkata has about 144 red zones. The private sector is getting ready for the next wave of cases. Also loads of elective surgeries are waiting to happen. Teleconsultation is being done very well, with trial run with the patients before the doctor turns up.

**Orissa** has seen 125 + cases, wherein 38 have been discharged and 1 death. 4 private hospitals have partnered with the government. Lot of hospitals have stated teleconsultation. Dr. Bishnu mentioned that any elective case the doctor has the right to do a covid test and Rs 5500 is being charged to the patient. It was requested that the Government should look at healthcare industry as employment generator and look at us as partners.

**Chattisgarh** the situation is stable. There is shortage of testing kits. private hospitals are not given the testing facility. TPA's are not covering for PPE's.

**Bihar:** Situation is quite good compared to other parts of the country. PPE quality is still a concern and some of the products purchased were returned because of poor quality. Regular OPD will be started sometime next week.

**Action Points:**

1. States to get in touch with AHPI for any help regarding Telemedicine.
2. A Sub committee to be formed to come up with suggestion and strategy for Insurance. Dr. Bhagat, Dr. Saumitra, Dr.Naresh (As Chairman) and Dr. V C Shanmuganandan were requested to take this forward.

Dr. Gyani summed up the meeting stating that the if the Govt releases, IT refund/Insurance/CGHS/ECHS and PSU payment the hospital will be able to manage the cash flow for the next 2 months. Dr. Gyani will study on how importance is being given to MSME and that the same can apply to health sector.