Dear Mam/mam,

I am writing regarding strengthening of convergence between recently announced initiatives in the National Health Mission. These include the following:

(i) **Universal Health Coverage (UHC) Pilots and the roll-out of Comprehensive Primary Health care through Health and Wellness Centres (H&WC).** States are opting for funding support for both pilots (UHC and H&WC), through the NHM PIP are advised to implement the H&WC pilots where the UHC pilot is already underway. This would allow states to focus resources in one or two district and allow for learning to enable scaling up.

(ii) **Rolling out population based screening for Non-Communicable Diseases:** States have been asked to select districts where NPCDCS implementation has been effective to undertake population based screening. In addition, the district where the H&WC pilots should also be included in this effort since NCD screening is part of the 12 packages required for provisioning of comprehensive primary health care.

(iii) **Bridge Course for Mid-Level Provider:** Several states have proposed to select nurses or Ayurveda practitioners for nomination to the Bridge Course and be trained and certified as Mid-Level providers by the Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU). The Mid-Level providers are expected to be located at the Health and Wellness Centres as part of the Comprehensive Primary Health Care roll-out. Therefore, states that have proposed funding for the Bridge Course should also propose to strengthen sub centres as H&WC or clarify where they would position such MLPs.

I look forward to hearing from you on the actions taken by you to ensure convergence in these strategies so that there may be leveraging and complementarity to achieve good primary health care outcomes.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,

(Manoj Jhalani)

Mission Director, National Health Mission, Department of Health and Family Welfare - All States/UTs