Kerala Accreditation Standards for Hospitals (KASH) Mission- to implement the Quality Standards in Health Care
Author: Dr. M Beena IAS, State Mission Director, NRHM Kerala

KASH
Kerala is the first and only state in India to introduce state level accreditation programme for health care organisation

Kerala Accreditation Standard for health care is prepared based on the NABH and IPHS standards.

This aims to enhance the patients’ quality of care by providing better medical treatment and preventive healthcare medical care services with the state of art technology with easy accessibility, affordability & equity.

The standards are prepared based on the major 3 level of care – PHC, CHC, THQ/specialty / General / District Hospitals prepared by the quality Assurance team of NRHM and approved by Technical Committee.

Assessment has been conducted in eight health care institutions. Seven institutions in the State have been accredited by Kerala Accreditation Standards for Hospitals namely,

1. CHC Manamboor
2. CHC Vellarada
3. PHC Chemmaruthi
4. PHC Chenkal
5. PHC Mangalapuram
6. PHC Vattiyoorkavu.
7. CHC Arakulam

Benefits
Patients get services by credential medical staff
Rights of patients are respected by the organization
Patient satisfaction is regularly evaluated
Continuous learning for staffs
Good working environment, leadership and above all ownership of clinical processes.
Accreditation to a health care organisation stimulates continuous improvement.
It enables the organisation in demonstrating commitment to quality care.
It raises community confidence
It also provides opportunity to healthcare unit to benchmark with the best.
Access to reliable and certified information on facilities, infrastructure and level of care

Emphasis
The major emphasis of KASH programme is on sensitization of healthcare organization towards importance of quality health care services; involvement of staffs for improving the quality of patient service; development, review and implementation of policies and procedures for implementation of Quality Management System.

Strategies adopted at Institutional level

- Team building and committee formation
- Developed Manuals and SOP’s
- Implementation of QMS and Environment & Safety practices
- Sensing hospital environment
- Periodic Benchmark of Healthcare organisation
- Continuous improvement
- Sensing hospitals and its involvement in quality management

Department of Health and Family Welfare, Government of Kerala