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Government of India
Ministry of Health & Family Welfare

Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi
Dated: 19th August, 2011

To

Mission Director
All States & UTs

Subject: Introduction of Home Based New Born Care Scheme through ASHA.

Sir/Madam,

It has been decided to introduce Home based new born care through ASHA in light of the high neonatal mortality. As per SRS 2009 early neonatal mortality (within 7 seven days of birth) and neonatal mortality (within 28 days of birth) stand at 27 and 34 per thousand live births respectively. These translates into 7.02 lakh newborn deaths within the first 7 days of birth and a total of 8.84 lakh newborn deaths within 28 days of birth. NMR thus constitutes 68 percent of the IMR out of which early NMR accounts for 54 percent. Further, despite decline in IMR, neonatal mortality is more or less static. It is, therefore, essential that neonates are provided utmost care at the first month of life so that neonatal deaths on account of asphyxia (19%), infection (29%) and preterm births (24%) could be prevented.

The purpose of Home Based New Born Care is to improve community new born practices and early detection and referral of sick new born babies. The main features of the scheme are as under :

- 1.) The role of ASHA during the visit for Home based care of new born includes encouraging safe new born care practices and early detection and free referral of sick new born babies and ensuring zero expenditure in management of sick new born in the identified facilities. It also combines post partum care of the mother including counseling for family planning. Thus, it is a holistic and comprehensive programme.
- 2.) The schedule of ASHA for Home Based New Born Care consists of six visits in case of institutional deliveries on days 3, 7, 14, 21, 28 & 42nd days and one additional visit within 24 hours of delivery in case of home deliveries. Additional visits will be required for babies who are pre-term, low birth weight or ill.

3.) ASHA would be paid Rs. 250 for conducting home visits for the care of the newborn and post partum mother. The amount would be paid on completion of the home visit form duly validated by the facilitator. The incentive would be paid only on completion of 45 days after birth of the child subject to the following:

- Birth weight must be recorded in the Maternal and Child Protection (MCP) Card.
- Newborn must have been immunized with BCG, first dose of OPV and DPT and entries made in the MCP card
- Birth should have been registered
- Both mother and newborn should be safe until the 42nd day of delivery

4.) In order to equip ASHA for providing home based new born care, she must be trained in modules 6 and 7.

5.) The funds for this programme are available under NRHM – ASHA incentive head. Payment to ASHA would be made by the same mechanism which the state has chosen for making JSY payments.

It is requested that implementation of home based new born care be accorded priority.



(Dr. Ajay Kherra)

Deputy Commissioner

(Child Health & Immunization)

E-mail: ajaykheramch@gmail.com

Telefax : 23061281

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