

Z-28020/106/2011-CH  
Government of India  
Ministry of Health & Family Welfare

Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi  
Date: 22nd December, 2011

To

Principal Secretary (Health & Family Welfare)  
All States / UTs

**Subject : Guidelines regarding implementation of IMNCI strategy and Modules 6 & 7 training for ASHA.**

Sir / Madam,

Integrated Management of Neonatal and Childhood Illness (IMNCI) is one of the important interventions being scaled up in the country for provision of community based care and referral of sick newborns and children and management of common childhood illnesses. This strategy encompasses extensive training programme for community based workers (Anganwadi workers, ASHA and ANMs), ensuring the availability of essential medicines and supportive supervision. The progress under IMNCI varies across States in terms of number of community based health workers trained so far, supportive supervision and results in terms of referrals.

Meanwhile, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has already rolled out Home Based Newborn Care (HBNC) Scheme through ASHAs so that neonatal mortality could be specially targeted for a decline. Under HBNC programme, ASHAs are required to be trained in Modules 6 & 7 for effectively delivering services related to newborn health.

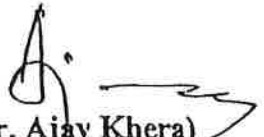
The Ministry of Health & Family welfare had constituted an Expert group to review and harmonize the elements of IMNCI and Modules 6 & 7 training programme. The Expert group, after perusal of the contents of both training packages, came to the conclusion that Modules 6 & 7 covers all essential elements of IMNCI besides skill building in respect of Maternal Health, Family Planning and Disease Control.

After careful consideration of the recommendation of the Expert group, the following decisions have been taken:

1. ASHAs would be henceforth be trained in Modules 6 & 7 in place of IMNCI.
2. ANMs would continue to receive IMNCI training as before.
3. Medical Officers will be trained in F-IMNCI
4. Anganwadi Workers would be trained in IMNCI only if funds are provided by Department of Women and Child Development.

The aforementioned strategy henceforth will be called as IMNCI Plus. Now it is requested that these guidelines be disseminated to all concerned at the State, District and Field Level for compliance. The Status report in this regard may be sent to the Ministry within 4 weeks of the issue of this letter.

Yours faithfully

  
(Dr. Ajay Khera)  
Deputy Commissioner  
(Child Health & Immunization)  
Email:ajaykheramch@gmail.com

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