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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE  
NIRMAN BHAVAN, NEW DELHI-110011

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**Sub: Involvement of ASHAs for Early Identification of Birth Defects**

Dear *Mission Director,*

I am writing this with regard to the training brochure developed for ASHAs on 'Early Identification of Birth Defects' as part of Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram. Birth Defects are common and affect at least one in every ten children. If these defects are recognized early, there is an opportunity for early intervention. It has been shown in many areas that early detection at the community level and management can prevent the progress of these conditions into severe and debilitating forms which have negative consequences for the child significant and the family.

ASHA being the first level care provider, especially for the Home Based New born Care, have the opportunity to recognize such defects and enable prompt referral. One of her key responsibilities is to make six division visits to the new born from the first day of birth until the first forty two days. Early identification of such children will help her to mobilize the family to seek opportunity intervention.

This training brochure consisting of a pictorial presentation of various birth defects will help her in early identification of birth defects.

Please find attached the training brochure (Annexure 1) and a proposed training strategy (Annexure 2). The platform of monthly PHC Review Meetings and sub centre meetings can be used for imparting this training. State is also advised to involve ANMs and Anganwadi workers during the training to promote coordinated action between field level functionaries.

Please let me know if you need any further assistance.

*With regards,*

Yours sincerely,

  
(C.K. Mishra)

Mission Directors of all States / UTs