



Manoj Jhalani

Joint Secretary & CVO

Telefax : 23063687

E-mail : manoj.jhalani@nic.in



भारत सरकार
स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय
निर्माण भवन, नई दिल्ली - 110011
Government of India
Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
Nirman Bhavan, New Delhi - 110011

D.O No. 7(90) / 2015-NRHM-I
18th July, 2016

Dear *Colleague,*

Please refer to this office communication of even number dated 18th December, 2015 regarding implementation of NHM Free Diagnostics Service Initiative.

2. It has come to our notice that some States are opting for PPP arrangements even for simple investigations/ tests for which capacity already exists or ought to exist in the public healthcare system. It may be recalled that the Ministry had clearly emphasized that the underlying idea behind this is to ensure that the capacities of facilities in public health system are not undermined or underutilized and that private sector diagnostics is utilized in a complementary manner for gap filling only.
3. Ideally, PPP arrangements should be sought only for those investigations/ tests that involve high capital investments in equipment/ technology, or require higher order skills and have relatively low volume and that too should be done only where such capacities are not available in the public health system. For large volume simple investigations/ Tests which do not involve higher order skills, the public laboratories must be strengthened and utilized.
4. In light of above, it is again reiterated that States must first undertake mapping of existing diagnostic capacities in different facilities in the State and then only enter into PPP arrangements, only for those tests facility wise that are necessary but are not available in those facilities. Further, the draft RFP guidelines circulated by GOI allow that even during the currency of agreement with a private partner for diagnostics, the number of tests can be reduced in one or more facilities if in-house capacities get created in one or more of public facilities.
5. States are requested to adhere to above guidance while implementing Free Diagnostics Service Initiative.

With regards,

Yours sincerely

MJ
(Manoj Jhalani)

Principal Secretary (H&FW)-All States/ UTs

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