



Government of West Bengal
Department of Health and Family Welfare
Swasthya Bhawan
GN-29 Block, Sector- V, Bidhannagar, Kolkata-91
Email: nvhcp.wb@gmail.com

Memo No: HFW-18043/1/2019-CD/186

Date: 08/04/2023

**From: Principal Secretary,
Dept. of Health & Family Welfare,
Government of West Bengal.**

**To: 1. The Proprietor/CEO/Medical Superintendent/In-charge
All Private Clinical Establishment (Hospitals/Nursing Homes/Clinics/Testing
Laboratories /Others), All Districts (including Kolkata), West Bengal
2. All Medical Practitioners, West Bengal**

Sir/Madam,

It is estimated that globally 354 million people are living with Hepatitis B and C. Burden of Hepatitis is nearly 9 times the burden of HIV infection. Spectrum of disease varies from acute manifestation to chronic infection. In India, it is estimated that there are **40 million** people suffering from Hepatitis B and **6-12 million** people suffering from Hepatitis C. According to **National Family Health Survey-4 (2021)**: Sero-prevalence of Hepatitis-B and C in **West Bengal** is **1.26%** (against 0.95% national prevalence) and **0.16%** (against 0.32% national prevalence), respectively. It thus contributes significantly to the burden of infectious diseases and associated morbidity and mortality.

The state of West Bengal is committed to eliminate Hepatitis-B and C by 2030; and achieve significant reduction in the infected population, associated morbidity (Cirrhosis and Hepatocellular carcinoma) and mortality.

In the state, the Program currently operates with 36 Viral Hepatitis Treatment Centers (VH TCs) covering all Districts at the levels of Medical College, District Hospital and Sub-divisional Hospital, along with 3 state-of-art State Referral Laboratories for Molecular Diagnostics. In addition, Vulnerable sub populations are covered in the outreach mode. Screening for Hepatitis B at all levels is done for Pregnant Women as an integral part of Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission and all Hepatitis-B seroreactive pregnant women are linked to designated CEmoC centers for Delivery. All newborns receive Hepatitis-B vaccine birth dose and newborns of all Hepatitis-B seroreactive mothers receive Hepatitis-B immunoglobulin in addition to the vaccine.

However, it is an acknowledged fact that the Private Health Care Sector caters to significant number of patients with Viral Hepatitis. Importantly, 29% of deliveries are catered by the Private Health Care Sector. Therefore, the role of Private Clinical Establishments and individual Medical Practitioners are pivotal, when it comes to Hepatitis-B/C care and treatment and prevention of Mother-to-Child transmission of Hepatitis-B, which directly translates into reduction in new case incidences, and morbidity and mortality related to these infections.


As you are aware, Hepatitis-B and Hepatitis-C have been declared as Notifiable Diseases. It is mandated by law that all Private Health Care Facilities (Hospitals/ Nursing Homes /Clinics /Testing Laboratories/Others) who are registered under the West Bengal Clinical Establishment Act, must timely notify all Hepatitis-B and C patients diagnosed (Screened/Confirmed) and/or admitted/treated in their institutions/facilities, to the designated District Authorities and for Kolkata to the MSO under CMHO Kolkata Municipal Corporation, in the appropriate Reporting Proforma, as stipulated. The same applies for individual Medical Practitioners as well.

In the above context you are requested to ensure the following:

1. Sensitize all the Doctors and Paramedical Staff attached to your institutions for **early diagnosis** and **timely notification** of all the Hepatitis-B and Hepatitis-C patients whether on treatment/admitted.
2. Nominate a **Nodal Person** who would be entitled and responsible to facilitate the process of notification from your respective units to the respective designated District Authorities in the appropriate Reporting Proforma, as stipulated. All such facilities in the area under Kolkata Municipal Corporation will report to the MSO under CMHO KMC (eMail: kmc.idsp@gmail.com).
3. The nominated Nodal Person will also coordinate and maintain a liaison with the Designated Authorities of the concerned District or Kolkata Municipal Corporation for technical and programmatic assistance as deemed necessary.
4. Screening of all pregnant women for HBsAg, administration of Hepatitis-B vaccine birth dose to all newborns and Hepatitis-B immunoglobulin to newborns of all Hepatitis-B seropositive mothers.
5. Treatment adherence of all the Hepatitis-B and C patients is to be stringently ensured.
6. As and when deemed necessary for continuing adherence to treatment, Patients may be linked to the designated Viral Hepatitis Treatment Centers operating under NVHCP.
7. Hepatitis-B Vaccination of Health Care Providers at your facility.

The State Technical Support Team (eMail: vhnotification@gmail.com) will provide all feasible support to the private health facilities to ensure real-time notification of Hepatitis-B/C cases.

Yours faithfully,


Principal Secretary,
Dept. of Health & Family Welfare,
Government of West Bengal

Copy forwarded for information and necessary action to the:

1. The Mission Director (NHM)& Secretary, Govt. of West Bengal
2. The Director of Health Services, Govt. of West Bengal
3. The Director of Medical Education, Govt. of West Bengal
4. The Additional Mission Director (NHM), Govt. of West Bengal
5. The Director, Family Welfare & Additional Mission Director (NHM), Govt. of West Bengal
6. The Director, Public Health Programs, Govt. of West Bengal
7. The Director, State FMG (NHM), Govt. of West Bengal
8. The Addl. Secretary, Dept. of UD & MA and Additional Director (SUDA), Govt. of West Bengal
9. The District magistrate, All District, West Bengal
10. The Principal, All Govt. Medical Colleges, West Bengal
11. The Principal, All Pvt. Medical Colleges, West Bengal
12. The MSVP, All Medical Colleges, West Bengal
13. The State Family Welfare Officer, West Bengal
14. The CMOH, All District (including Health districts), West Bengal
15. The CMHO, Kolkata Municipal Corporation, West Bengal
16. WHO Consultant (NTD), West Bengal
17. The State Nodal Officer, NUHM, West Bengal
18. The Health Officer, all ULBs, West Bengal
19. The ACMOH, all Sub-Divisions, West Bengal
20. Sr. PA to the Secretary, Health & Family Welfare Department.
21. The System Coordinator, IT Cell (with request to post in the Departmental website)
22. Office Copy.



State Program Officer
NVHCP, Govt. of West Bengal