

MEMORANDUM

Imphal, the 19th August, 2020

Subject : Instructions on detection of suspect/confirmed COVID-19 case in a non-COVID Health Facility.

No. 31/8/2020-M (Pt-VI): It has been observed that some patients are being denied proper care or refused treatment in non COVID hospitals/clinics on suspicion of COVID-19 or after confirmation as a COVID-19 case. This is causing considerable stress and hardship to patients in need of proper and timely medical care, and may even lead to the avoidable loss of precious human lives. No patient shall be denied healthcare service and no life-threatening emergency procedure or treatment shall be deferred on grounds of suspicion of COVID-19 infection or on confirmation as a COVID positive case.

2. In view of the need to make healthcare accessible to all even in the midst of the current COVID-19 pandemic, Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt. of India has issued guidelines for hospitals and all related medical establishments, both in public and private sector, to continue to remain functional. Follow up Instructions have also been issued by the Health Department, Government of Manipur vide Orders No. 31/8/2020-M (Pt-VI) dated 6th August, 2020. Adequate COVID Testing Kits have been made available to private and government health care facilities.

3. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Govt. of India had on 20th April, 2020 issued Guidelines to be followed on detection of suspect/confirmed COVID-19 case in a non-COVID Health Facility.

4. Accordingly, the following instructions on action to be taken on detection of COVID -19 case in non-COVID health facility when a positive COVID-19 patient is identified in a health care facility, not designated as COVID-19 isolation facility is hereby issued to all hospitals/clinics, in both public and private sector, for strict compliance :

- (i) **The patient should be immediately isolated to another room (if currently being managed in a shared ward/room). Therefore, each Health care facility should earmark COVID-19 Isolation area and keep it in readiness at all times.**
- (ii) **Under no circumstance should a patient be left unattended by the health care facility.**
- (iii) **If life saving/emergency procedures are required, the health care facility should get it done without delay by following COVID-19 preventive protocols.**



- (iv) If the clinical status of the case permits, a COVID positive case may be shifted to a COVID-19 facility (RIMS/JNIMS/COVID CARE CENTRE), after confirming availability of bed from State COVID Admissions Committee. Test results and case records of such patients must be made available to the receiving hospital/CCC.
- (v) Follow appropriate precautions while transporting the patient. Each health care facility must have ambulance arrangement for transporting the COVID positive person to the COVID facility.
- (vi) All contacts of this patient (other patients being managed in the same room or ward, healthcare workers who have attended to him/her, support staff who may have come in close contact, caretaker/visitors etc.) should be quarantined and followed up for 14 days. Their details must also be shared with the Government health authorities.
- (vii) This should be followed by disinfection procedures at the facility and the ambulance.

5. The above instructions shall be strictly complied by all concerned and any violations will be viewed very seriously and appropriate action shall be initiated under relevant provisions of the Manipur Nursing Homes & Clinical Registration Act, 1992 and may even lead to cancellation of registration. Action may also be taken under the Disaster Management Act, 2020 for failure to comply with directions of the State Government.


(V. Vumlunmang)
Principal Secretary (Health & FW)
Government of Manipur

No. 31/8/2020-M (Pt-VI):

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Copy to :

1. Secretary to Hon'ble Chief minister, Manipur
2. PPS to Hon'ble Minister (Health & FW), Manipur
3. Staff Officer to Chief Secretary, Government of Manipur
4. Director of Health Services, Manipur
5. Director, DIPR, Manipur, for wide publicity
6. All Government and Private Hospitals in Manipur, for necessary action
7. File