



# ALL INDIA BHARAT SANCHAR NIGAM LIMITED RETIRED EXECUTIVES' ASSOCIATION

## Central Headquarters

Registered under Societies Registration Act XXI of 1860 vide Govt. of NCT Delhi No. S/RS/SW/1161/2014  
[Registered under Pensioners Portal vide DoP&PW letter No. 4(4)/2021-P&PW(H)7311 dated 04.01.2024]

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No.AIBSNLREA/CHQ/2024/22

Dated:2<sup>nd</sup> April 2024

To  
Ms. Roli Singh,  
Addl. Secretary & Director General,  
Central Government Health Scheme,  
New Delhi.

**Sub: Request for withdrawal of CGHS OM dated 28.03.2024 mandating linking of CGHS Beneficiary ID with Ayushman Bharat Health Account ID**

Madam,

We are shocked to see the O.M. issued by the CGHS Directorate vide F.No.Z15025/23/2023/DIR/CGHS(Comp No.8236195)I/3663776/2024 dated 28.03.2024, making linking of CGHS Beneficiary ID with Ayushman Bharat Health Account ID mandatory w.e.f. 1st April 2024 and requiring the CGHS beneficiaries to complete the linking within 30 days. As we remembered that the Government had denied similar reports on social media in March last year categorically stating through a PIB Tweet that, "*This claim is fake. GOI has made no such announcement*", we checked and found that this OM is not fake and has been uploaded in the CGHS official website.

2. We are unable to believe that CGHS Directorate has issued such an O.M since the Government itself had earlier denied issuing such an announcement and also because the ABHA scheme itself unequivocally claims that it is purely voluntary. You will agree that a Government Scheme purely voluntary for an India Citizen cannot be made mandatory only for the CGHS beneficiaries.

3. The ABHA lists the benefits of obtaining ABHA number as i) Establish unique identity across different healthcare providers within the healthcare ecosystem; ii) Link all healthcare benefits ranging from public health programmes to insurance schemes to your unique ABHA number; iii) Avoid long lines for registration in healthcare facilities across the country; iv) Seamless sign up for Personal Health Records applications such as ABDM

application for health care sharing. All these benefits will differ from individual to individual and most of the CGHS beneficiaries will not require such identity across different healthcare providers and insurers. Linking with ABHA is not going to alter the long lines in our wellness centres in any way. All the CGHS beneficiaries will not be willing to share their medical records which include consultations, investigation reports, prescriptions with other hospitals and insurers. Though sharing of medical records is said to be with their consent, it is not known if the consent will be case by case or a one-time consent. Also with CGHS functioning already computerised, connecting all wellness centres and all the empanelled hospitals on-boarding in the computerised system, there is no need for this exercise.

4. For the above reasons and due to the concerns about the safety and security of our medical records remaining unaddressed, it looks strange that linking CGHS card with ABHA has been made mandatory all of a sudden and giving a small window for completing the work. The pensioners associations have not been taken into confidence before coming to such a decision, while DoP&PW is going the extra mile to ensure that pensioners associations are part of the pensioners welfare programmes.

5. We would therefore request you to kindly cause withdrawal of the said O.M dated 28.03.2024 and continue to allow only willing CGHS beneficiaries to link their CGHS cards with ABHA, since picking out the CGHS beneficiaries to become mandatory ABHA account holders, which is otherwise a voluntary scheme, will be unjust and discriminatory.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,



(R.R.Balasubramanian)  
General Secretary

Copy to: Shri V.Srinivas,  
Secretary (Pension), DoP&PW