



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/2024/28

Dated:29th April 2024

To

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

Sub: Request to address the concerns related CGHS OM mandating linking of CGHS Beneficiary ID with Ayushman Bharat Health Account ID

- Ref: 1. CGHS Directorate O.M. vide F.No.Z15025/23/2023/DIR/CGHS I/3663776/2024 (Comp No.8236195) dated 28.03.2024
2. Our letter No.AIBSNLREA/CHQ/2024/22 dated 2nd April 2024
3. CGHS Directorate O.M. vide F.No.Z15025/23/2023/DIR/CGHS I/3663776/2024 (Comp No.8236195) dated 15.04.2024

Madam,

This is in continuation of our letter cited under reference 2 above, wherein we had conveyed our shock 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. We had requested to 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.

2. Meanwhile CGHS Directorate has issued another O.M cited under Reference 3 above, extending the time limit for linking CGHS ID with ABHA ID upto 30.10.2024 and conveying that KIOSKs shall be made operational by 30.06.2024 at all Wellness Centres. While it is not known as to how the Wellness Centres already overloaded with their daily

chores will handle this additional work, genuine concerns of the CGHS beneficiaries remain unaddressed.

3. Both the O.Ms are silent on the core issue of how the CGHS beneficiaries will be benefitted by linking their CGHS ID with ABHA ID, in respect of their visit to the Wellness Centres, consultation with the Medical Officer and Specialists, getting referral to Private empanelled hospitals and indoor treatment in those HCOs. On the other hand, the concerns about safety and security of their medical records, the CGHS beneficiaries becoming pawns in the hands of private hospitals and private insurance companies and importantly whether the CGHS is trying to offload the CGHS beneficiaries from its responsibilities by driving them to avail medical care from only State Government hospitals, remain un-addressed. A recent news about CGHS proposal to run the Wellness Centres on public private partnership has added to the worries of the CGHS beneficiaries.

4. Unless the CGHS categorically states that there is no move by CGHS to offload its responsibilities by doing away with empanelment of private hospitals and driving the beneficiaries to the State Government hospitals; that there is no move to run the Wellness Centres through Public-Private Partnership and unless the benefits in availing day to day medical care from CGHS wellness centres and private hospitals by linking with ABHA is listed, the CGHS beneficiaries cannot be convinced to link their CGHS ID with ABHA ID. Even then, making it mandatory for CGHS beneficiaries while ABHA is voluntary for all other Indian citizens, will be unjust and discriminatory.

5. We would therefore request you to kindly cause issue of a Circular listing the real and tangible benefits to the CGHS beneficiaries in availing the already existing facilities under CGHS, dispel the concerns regarding the safety and security of their medical records, categorically state that this move is not intended to do away with the empanelment of private hospitals and that there is no move to run the Wellness Centres through Public Private Partnership, in order to convince the beneficiaries. **Above all, linking CGHS ID with ABHA ID should continue to remain voluntary.**

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,



(R.R.Balasubramanian)

General Secretary

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