



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/2024/50

Dated: 12th July 2024

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

Sub: Need for clarity regarding issue of OPD medicine to CGHS beneficiaries going abroad

Madam,

We would like to draw your kind attention to the guidelines vide DG CGHS Office order No.1-40/2019/CGHS/C&P /DIR/CGHS dated 19th August 2019 for supply of OPD medicines for up to six months to CGHS beneficiaries, who are going to stay abroad, with the modified provision that "*Chief Medical Officer I/c of concerned CGHS Wellness Centre is empowered for issue of OPD medicines for up to six months to the CGHS beneficiaries visiting abroad, subject to submission of Copy of valid CGHS card, valid prescription for six months and documentary proof of going abroad like ticket, visa etc*". The CMO I/C of a Wellness Centre is already empowered to prescribe and issue OPD medicine for up to 3 months in case of chronic diseases.

2. There appears to be a lack of clarity regarding the commencement of the 3/6 months period, whether it is to be counted from the date of last issue of medicines made or from the date of travel abroad by the CGHS beneficiary. In a specific case we have knowledge of, when the last 3 months' issue of medicine was done two months back and the beneficiary was required to travel with one month's medicine in hand, he was denied

issue of medicine for the remaining two months he would be staying abroad, on the plea that medicine cannot be issued with the previous 3 months' supply not yet used.

3. We cannot expect a beneficiary to plan his travel only after completion of exactly 3 months after the previous supply, as his travel plans depend on various factors including a few, over which he has no control. With most of the pensioner beneficiaries having chronic diseases and getting 3 months' supply of medicine regularly, overlapping of 3 months' time period after previous supply and period of stay abroad is most likely to happen and it would be unfair to deny supply of medicines for the period of stay abroad on the reason that medicines cannot be issued without exhausting the previous supply.

4. We would therefore request that clear guidelines may be issued to all Wellness Centres that medicines may be supplied for the remaining months of stay abroad after completion of use of previous supply, of course subject to the limit of 3/6 months on supply, in any single occasion.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,



12/7/24

(R.R.Balasubramanian)
General Secretary

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