



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/2024/41

Date: 13th June 2024

To

Shri Jagan Prakash Nadda,
Minister of Health & Family Welfare,
Government of India,
New Delhi

Sub: Request to direct DG CGHS to withdraw the OMs mandating CGHS beneficiaries to link their CGHS card with ABHA card

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. CGHS Directorate O.M. vide F.No.Z15025/23/2023/DIR/CGHS I/3663776/2024 (Comp No.8236195) dated 15.04.2024

Sir,

We are constrained to seek your personal attention to two Office Memoranda issued by the Directorate of CGHS, referred to above, making it compulsory for CGHS beneficiaries to link their CGHS card with ABHA card (Ayushman Bharat Health Account card), when the ABHA scheme is voluntary to every other citizen of India.

2. CGHS Directorate issued a O.M vide F.No.Z15025/23/2023/DIR/CGHS (Comp No.8236195)I/3663776/2024 dated 28.03.2024 [Annexure-A], 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.

3. 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. Almost every Pensioner Association in the country representing the CGHS beneficiaries conveyed their disapproval of the said O.M. making the linking compulsory.

4. But the CGHS Directorate 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.

5. 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. **CGHS has not been able to indicate any benefit in such linking except that the medical records can be stored digitally and shared with hospitals. No reason has been stated as to how the CGHS functioning will improve because of this linking.**

6. We would therefore request you to kindly bestow your personal attention to this matter and cause withdrawal of both the O.M.s issued by CGHS Directorate, as there is not an iota of justification in compelling the CGHS beneficiaries to link their CGHS identity with ABHA and also because CGHS beneficiaries cannot be singled out when the ABHA scheme itself is only a voluntary one for the citizens of India.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,



13/6/24

(R.R.Balasubramanian)
General Secretary

Encl: As stated

Copy to: 1. Shri V.Srinivas,
Secretary (Pension), DoP&PW
2. Ms. Roli Singh,
Addl. Secretary & DG CGHS