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भारत सरकार
Government of India
स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय
Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
निर्माण भवन, नई दिल्ली-110108
Nirman Bhavan, New Delhi-110108

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December 1, 2020

Dear Sir,

It has been a privilege that many esteemed experts and senior faculties from medical colleges have been supporting National TB Elimination Programme (NTEP) by serving as experts in various national technical expert groups to help regularly updating the national policy in line with the most recent evidences and adoption of global guidelines in Indian context. Apart from the TB services and activities undertaken by most of the medical colleges in India through the task force mechanism, some of the reputed medical colleges are also serving as culture and drug susceptibility testing laboratories and Nodal/District drug resistant TB (DR-TB) centers. The establishment of the "Difficult to treat TB Clinic" by National Institute of Tuberculosis and Respiratory Diseases (NITRD), New Delhi with support from Central TB Division and National Task Force (NTF) is also much appreciated.

With reference to the Gazette notification No. MCI-34(41)/2019-Med./126168 dated 25th June 2019 (attached herewith for reference) regarding amendment in the "Minimum standard requirements for 50/100/150 MBBS admissions annually regulation, 1999", every Medical college should have facility for management of MDR-TB at the time of 4th renewal for admission of 5th batch of MBBS students.

You would agree that the expertise of the medical colleges commensurate to its strengths need to be tapped for strengthening clinical, ADRs and co-morbidity management of DR-TB patients across India with the aim to improve quality of care, treatment success and survival of these difficult patients. As per the national data, 64% (336/526) of the medical colleges are yet to establish DR-TB centres in the country in line with the above-mentioned gazette notification from Government of India.

You are requested to direct ZTF & STF to **support the establishment of facility for the management of MDR-TB in all the medical colleges** in public sector and in private sector (using partnership options, if required) across the country.

In addition, many times pediatricians find it challenging to admit pediatric DR-TB patients in the existing DR-TB wards of the medical colleges. In order to enhance DR-TB beds for the paediatric DR-TB patients, you are requested to support the states/ STF to **ensure availability of DR-TB bed for pediatric patients in Medical Colleges** and ensuring **inclusion of a pediatrician in the concerned DR-TB committee**.

The NTEP looks upon the strengths of the medical college task force mechanism to guide and support all medical colleges to ensure that all the remaining medical colleges establish DR-TB Centers in their respective medical colleges in accordance to the gazette notification enclosed. We urge you to closely monitor this and ensure complete coverage of all medical colleges within the next one year.

With regards,



(Dr. K.S. Sachdeva)

To:

Chair, National Task Force
Vice chairs, National Task Force

Copy to:

Director Medical Education and Research (All States)
State TB Officers (All States/ UTs)
Zonal Task Force (All Zones)
STF (All States/ UTs)
CTD officials & Consultants
WHO India team – NPOs, RTLs, Consultants