

GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
(Health-6 Branch)

To

1. The Vice Chancellor, Baba Farid University of Health sciences
Faridkot
2. Prinicpal , Government Medical College Patiala and Amritsar
3. Medical Superintendent, Govt Rajindra Hospital Patiala & Guru Nanak
Dev Hospital Amritsar
4. All Deputy Commissioners
5. All Civil Surgeons

No. E-404/7/97/14-5/44(356)/1272749/1-49
Date 16-7-2018.

Subject- Instructions for treatment of drug dependents in the State run Drug De-addiction and Rehabilitation Centres and OOAT Clinics.

The implementation of Drug-De-addiction Programme was reviewed by the Hon'ble Chief Minister with the Civil Surgeons and other senior officers in Chandigarh on 10.7.2018. Based on discussions following decisions have been taken and these would apply to :-

- (i) Govt Drug Deaddiction Centers.
- (ii) Govt Drug Rehabilitation Centers.
- (iii) OOAT Centers

1) Free treatment- The Department of Health vide its memo No. 7/97/2014-5H4/1453 dated 24.9.2014 allowed free treatment to drug users who have blue/yellow cards i.e. persons below poverty line. The Deputy Commissioners were authorized to allow free treatment to poor patients even if they do not have blue/yellow card. These instructions are again reiterated. All poor persons having these cards may be provided free treatment in Govt Drug De-addiction centres, Govt Drug rehabilitation centers and OOAT Centers. Poor patients without any card, will also get free treatment with the approval of The District De-addiction and Rehabilitation Society (The Society).

2) Free tests- Some of the patients coming to de-addiction centres may be required to undergo various diagnostic lab tests. These tests are to be conducted in the hospital to which the Government De-addiction Centres have been attached to. These tests would also be free for the category of patients mentioned in sub-para (1) above.

3) Re-imburement of bus fare- OOAT Clinics are yet to be established in all the Community Health Centres and as a result the drug dependent persons may be required to travel to the nearest sub-divisional and District Hospitals. Depending upon

the local situation and accessibility issues, the Civil Surgeons are authorized to reimburse the travel expenses as per Punjab Roadways bus fare rates with the approval of the Society to the categories of persons mentioned in para (1) above.

4) Re-employment of retired psychiatrists - There is shortage of psychiatrists in the State. Therefore the societies are directed to employ retired psychiatrists of the department. They shall be paid last pay drawn minus pension as per instructions of Punjab Government.

5) Empanelment of private Psychiatrists- The societies are further authorized to empanel/employ full time/part time private psychiatrists for smooth functioning of Govt Drug De-addiction Centre and Rehabilitation centers for coping up with the increased inflow of drug dependent persons. They shall be paid Rs. 60,000 per month which is payable to Specialists engaged under National Health Mission. If their services are used for part time their emoluments may be fixed depending on number of hours by the society.

6) Security Staff - As per instructions already issued, the authorities would not approach police for providing security at the drug de-addiction centres.

The Society has been authorized to employ ex-servicemen from PESCO for hiring security personnel.

7) Other Staff: The Health Department vide its Memo No. 9/6414-3/H6/2300 Dated 16/7/14 and again on 19/4/18 vide memo no:PA/ASH/2018/182 has already authorized the District De-addiction Societies to hire paramedical staff including Counselors, Staff nurses and Security Guards. It may be ensured that no posts remain vacant and are filled up on regular basis. Posts other than that of security guards will be filled on contract basis in a transparent manner as per Punjab governments Instructions.

8) Medicines- The rate contract for procurement of essential drugs under the De-addiction Programme stands finalized. The medicine is available in plenty in Central Ware House at Chandigarh. The Civil Surgeons may kindly ensure that all kinds of medicines required in the health facilities including those for emergency are available at all times.

9) Working of OOAT Centers – The Standard Operating Protocol for OOAT Centers has already been issued. The Health authorities may kindly ensure that the centres are functioning strictly according to Standard Operating Protocol. The inspection of some of the OOAT Centres has revealed that the attendance of drug dependents is not marked daily at OOAT Centres in a systematic manner. OOAT Centres may be directed to the mark daily the attendance of persons visiting these centres as is done in case of employees in office in the attendance register. Similarly SOPs for Government Drug Deaddiction centers and Rehabilitation centers have already been circulated and please ensure that they are strictly complied with.

The authorities are further requested that if registered patients stop coming to OOAT Centres then they may be contacted on phone or otherwise and may be counseled to avail the services of OOAT Centres on regular basis.

10) Private De-addiction Centres – The department is finalizing SOP for the private de-addiction Centres in a day or so and it will be sent to you . The rules for these Centres were notified on 16-1-2011 . These centers are required to be registered under the new Mental Health care act 2017 . In the mean time it is requested –

- That all existing Centres be inspected at once and thereafter on regular basis. Proper infrastructure, in terms of manpower and other facilities may be ensured at these Centres.
- Most of these Centres are only providing OPD services with little or no indoor admissions. Civil Surgeons would compile the details of IPD / OPD of these centres and will submit to State headquarters on daily basis. If data of a particular Centre reveals no or less utilization of indoor facility, it should be seriously enquired to find out relevant causes.
- Some of the Centres are selling Buprenorphine -Naloxone in large quantity. As per protocol they can not hand over take home doses for more than one week and in exceptional circumstances for cogent reasons, they can issue take home dose not more than two weeks . Some of the Centres are selling medicines worth Rs. 1 lac daily. The receipt and sale of medicines in such centres be monitored on daily basis, FIR has been registered at Mohali against a de-addiction centre for un authorized sale of Buprenorphine -Naloxone tablets to drug dependant persons. Simillar action may be initiated if unauthorized sale of Buprenorphine -Naloxone is reported from any Centre in your District.
- If the district authorities feel that a de-addiction centre does not meet the minimum standards or is not providing all the required services in the IPD/OPD etc. in the manner prescribed under The Punjab Substance Use disorder Treatment and Counseling and Rehabilitation Centers Rules 2011, then such centres be recommended for closure .

Darshan Chahal

**Additional Chief Secretary,
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CC: DRME, Punjab.