COMMISSIONERATE
Health & Family Welfare Services

No: NVBDCP/EST7B/COVID19/2020-21

Dated: 17.10.2020

CIRCULAR

Subject: Efficient utilization of hospital beds for COVID-19 patients

Reference: I. Revised discharge policy for COVID-19 from Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India dated 08.05.2020
II. Direction of Hon’ble Supreme Court of India in Suo-Motu Writ petition (civil) No. 7 of 2020, dated 19.06.2020
III. Circular no. COM/HFW/PS/2020 regarding utilization of Hospital Beds for Moderately and Severely ill COVID-19 Patients, dated 18.07.2020
IV. Circular No. HFW 297 ACS 2020 regarding revised discharge policy for COVID-19 from Government of Karnataka dated 11.08.2020

As on 14\textsuperscript{th} October 2020, In Karnataka 7,35,371 cases and 10,198 deaths and in Bengaluru 2,93,405 cases and 3,417 deaths have been reported. For the management of COVID-19 pandemic, hospital beds are a valuable resource and hence, shall be used judiciously for those patients who are clinically in need of these beds. In this context, the guidelines are reiterated for hospital admission, discharge, and transfer of COVID-19 patients as follows.

1. Hospital admission:
The patients having moderate and severe symptoms shall be admitted in Dedicated COVID Health Centers (DCHCs), Dedicated COVID Hospitals (DCHs) or COVID-19 hospitals, both in government and private.

However, asymptomatic persons and those with mild symptoms shall be managed in home isolation/home care or shifted to COVID care centers (CCCs) both in government and private. Admitting these patients in DCHs/DCHCs/COVID hospitals will deny beds to other needy COVID-19 patients.

2. Hospital discharge:

“"In this regard, it is further clarified that; for discharge of COVID-19 patient from the hospital, the duration shall be counted from the date of onset of symptoms and not from the date of hospital admission".
3. Transfer of clinically improved patients from COVID hospitals to Covid Care Centers (CCCs)

In view of surge in COVID-19 cases in the state and to ensure prudent use of hospital beds both in government and private for moderately and severely ill COVID-19 patients, it is necessary to transfer clinically improved patients to COVID Care Centers (CCCs) as per criteria mentioned below:

- No Fever and No Symptom/s for the last 3 consecutive days (without antipyretics) before transfer to CCC, and
- Maintaining oxygen saturation above 95% for the last 4 consecutive days (without oxygen support)

Those who fulfill these criteria in the COVID hospitals shall be transferred to the CCC by the treating physician after a careful clinical evaluation of the patient.

The above guidelines of admission, discharge, and transfer shall be followed in all DCHCs, DCHs, both in government and private in the State.

To,

1. The Commissioner, BBMP
2. The Deputy Commissioners, All Districts
3. The Chief Executive Officers, Zilla Panchayath, All Districts
4. The District Health Officer & District Surgeons – All Districts
5. The Dean cum Directors, Medical Colleges
6. The President – IMA, IAP, PHANA, for circulation to all the members & Heads of all Private Medical Establishments.

Copy to:
1. The Director, Health & Family Welfare Services
2. The Director, Medical Education

Copy submitted to:
3. The Chief Secretary, Government of Karnataka
4. The Additional Chief Secretary, Dept. of Health & Family Welfare, GoK
5. Principal Secretary, Medical Education.