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Guidelines regarding Mobile Medical Unit (MMU) Implementation in Himachal Pradesh

1. Program Objectives

The primary objective of the MMU initiative is to bridge the healthcare gap in underserved and tribal regions of Himachal Pradesh by providing comprehensive AYUSH-based healthcare services directly to communities lacking adequate medical facilities. The program aims to offer a range of preventive, promotive, and curative healthcare interventions, thus improving overall health outcomes and facilitating timely referrals to higher AYUSH facilities for specialized care. By bringing medical services to remote areas, the initiative seeks to make healthcare more accessible and reduce disparities in health service availability.

2. Implementation Overview

The program will focus on tribal regions (Kinnaur, Spiti, Pangi) and the Shillai Block of District Sirmour. These areas have been selected due to their geographical remoteness and insufficient access to healthcare. The MMUs will consist of a core team comprising one Ayurvedic Medical Officer (AMO), an Ayurvedic Pharmacy Officer (APO), and a Class-IV worker. Depending on the local population's healthcare needs, the team may also include Unani Medical Officers (UMO), Homeopathic Medical Officers (HMO), or practitioners of Sowa-Rigpa. This flexibility ensures that the MMU caters to the diverse medical needs of the community. Vehicles will be hired as per district-authorized rates, ensuring they are equipped with ample space for medical supplies, equipment, and IEC materials. It will be branded with the name of the project, logo of NAM and logo of State AYUSH Department. The vehicle of MMU can also be used for administrative purpose, if a camp is not scheduled. A minimum of 2 camps per month should be ensured by each MMU.

3. Operational Strategy

Mapping and Prioritization: A comprehensive mapping exercise will be conducted in partnership with district authorities to identify areas that are most in need. The mapping process will focus on pinpointing village clusters that lack functional healthcare facilities and are difficult to access. Additionally, potential referral sites will be identified to facilitate prompt and efficient patient transfers when needed.

Community Mobilization: The local head of each village will play a crucial role in community engagement. By spreading information about the MMU's schedule and services, these local leaders will help mobilize residents to attend screenings and consultations. Such mobilization ensures that even those in the most remote parts of the village are aware of the MMU's presence and can benefit from its services.

Service Delivery: The MMU will offer essential healthcare services such as screenings for communicable and non-communicable diseases, basic outpatient care for common illnesses, and the distribution of prescribed medications. The team will implement standard protocols to diagnose, manage, and treat these conditions, enhancing health outcomes in the region. Detailed records of patient visits, treatment plans, and referral details will be maintained, ensuring accurate documentation and continuity of care. Additionally, to guarantee uninterrupted service, medical supplies must be monitored and replenished regularly.

Follow-Up and Continuity of Care: For chronic patients or those requiring long-term treatment, follow-up appointments will be scheduled during subsequent MMU visits. This continuity of care is essential for managing conditions that need ongoing medical attention. The date of the next MMU visit and follow-up details will be included in each patient's prescription, helping ensure patients know when and how to access further care. Emergency contact numbers will be provided for urgent situations outside of the MMU's schedule, offering an additional layer of support.

Capacity Building and Health Promotion: To build awareness and promote a culture of proactive health-seeking behavior, training sessions will be conducted. These sessions will focus on preventive health measures, managing malnutrition, de-addiction support, and the benefits of Yoga and other AYUSH interventions. These capacity-building efforts will empower communities to make informed health decisions and integrate healthier practices into their daily lives.

4. Administrative and Financial Support

The AYUSH Vibhag Himachal Pradesh has secured approval in National AYUSH Mission for the operational needs of camps, IEC materials, training, and vehicle hire. This funding ensures that each MMU is well-resourced to meet its service delivery goals. A total budget of Rs. 33,90,000 has been allocated for the program across the targeted areas. To facilitate smooth implementation, districts are required to submit comprehensive plans detailing the proposed routes, village coverage, and resource requirements to the Directorate for fund release and oversight. The manpower for the Mobile medical units shall be sourced from the regular pool of the Department. The medicines and diagnostics shall also be procured from the Departmental supply of the Districts/SDAMOs.

5. Monitoring and Reporting

Robust monitoring and reporting are critical for maintaining the program's effectiveness and accountability. Each visit will be documented meticulously, including patient data, diagnoses, treatment plans, and referrals. Logbooks and data entry systems will be utilized to keep accurate records. Periodic performance reports will be submitted to the Directorate, allowing for program assessment and the identification of potential improvements.

6. Operational Guidelines for Field Teams

Team members involved in the MMU project are entitled to usual travel and daily allowances (TA/DA) as per existing regulations. Proper protocols for the transportation and storage of medical supplies should be adhered to at all times to ensure safety and efficacy. Given that tribal areas may only be accessible until mid-November due to weather conditions, initial visits should be conducted promptly. Plans for subsequent visits should take seasonal conditions into account to maximize service delivery periods. The program will initially leverage available IEC materials from the department to reduce start-up time and costs. Essential medications will be sourced from district stores to maintain a steady supply for MMU camps.

Approved vide NN-35

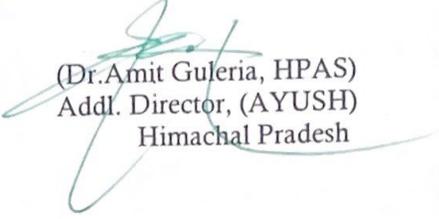
Secretary (AYUSH to the
Govt. of Himachal Pradesh

Endst. No. As above 23908-10

Dated, Shimla-9 04/12/2024

Copy forwarded to

1. Secretary AYUSH to the Government of Himachal Pradesh
2. Deputy Directors AYUSH, Shimla and Kangra Zone for information and further necessary action.
3. DAO Kinnaur, Lahaul and Spiti, Chamba and Sirmour for information and necessary action.


(Dr. Amit Guleria, HPAS)
Addl. Director, (AYUSH)
Himachal Pradesh