

Manpower requirement for Government Hospitals to treat COVID-19 patient

It is submitted that the point raised below have been extensively debated during the meeting taken by the Cabinet Secretary on 26th March 2020 and based on the discussions therein, Director AIIMS was asked to prepare a Standard Operating Procedure/Guidelines for allocation of Health professionals throughout the Health Care system, including the private Sector . This was to be based on the protocol developed for AIIMS itself. It included optimal apportionment of resources between non – COVID and COVID patients and further categorization of those patients on the basis of severity of illness. It further included pooling of resources including medical and nursing students and specialists from various disciplines. Teams with a mix of capabilities performed and training workshops conducted for their orientation. Further, their deployment was planned on rotational basis to afford them adequate rest in view of their own safety. Accordingly, MoHFW has brought out SoPs for reallocation of residents / PG students and nursing students as part of hospital management of COVID (<https://www.mohfw.gov.in/pdf/COVID19SOPfordoctorsandnurses.pdf>). Medical students have not been deployment for such duties. Doctors above the age of 60 years can, as far as possible, be deployed in non – COVID hospitals and younger doctors from those facilities can be shifted for management of COVID patients. The manpower being suggested, is already being deployed in the healthcare system. Foreign medical graduates who could not qualify the FMGE (Screening Test) were not considered advisable for deployment during the Cabinet Secretariat meeting. AIIMS, Delhi offered to prepare a bridge course for AYUSH doctors prior to their deployment. The preponderance of private sector makes it necessary for their engagement in COVID management. AIIMS Delhi is already running a helpline for guiding the States on clinical management. List of training modules have also been compiled for the benefit of States and hospitals. The various diploma holders, not recognized by MCI, being already MBBS degree holder can offer services in their respective capacity. The CPS diploma fellowship courses running from the commencement of the IMC Act, 1956 are still recognized by MCI. Further, the additional CPS courses are recognized by the concerned State government under the State legislation so as to enable them to practice within the State. Telemedicine guidelines have also been issued to facilitate clinical management in this hour (<https://www.mohfw.gov.in/pdf/Telemedicine.pdf>).