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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF HEALTH SERVICES
NATIONAL COUNCIL SECRETARIAT

Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi.
Date: 12th November, 2021

MINUTES OF MEETING

The minutes of the meeting of the Sub-Committee constituted with the approval of DGHS for physiotherapy matters, held under the Chairmanship of Dr. K. T. Bhowmik, Principal Consultant, Dte. GHS, on 27.10.2021 at 03.00 PM in Room No.343-B, A-Wing, Third Floor, Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi are enclosed herewith for information and necessary action.

(Dr. Manas Pratim Roy)
ADG(MPR)
Telephone: 011-23061164

Encl: as above

To:

All Participants as per the list mentioned in the minutes

Copy to:

- Sr.PPS to DGHS
- PPS to PC(KTB), Dte.GHS
- Staff of National Council Secretariat

Meeting Name :	Meeting on minimum standard of Physiotherapy centre under the chairmanship of Dr. KT Bhowmik, Principal Consultant
Meeting Purpose:	Discussion on conflict between the minimum standard of Physiotherapy centre as approved by National Council for Clinical Establishments, in comparison to what is now provided in respect of Physiotherapist Professional under recently enacted National Commission for Allied and Healthcare Professions Act, 2021
Date:	27.10.2021
Time:	3 PM
Location:	343-B, A wing, Nirman Bhawan
Meeting Facilitator:	Dr. Manas Pratim Roy, ADG
List of Attendees:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dr. KT Bhowmik, Principal Consultant, Dte. GHS, MoHFW 2. Dr. Anil Kumar, Addl. DDG, Dte. GHS, MoHFW 3. Dr. RK Wadhwa, Addl MS and HOD, Dept. of PMR, Vardhman Mahavir Medical College (VMCC) & Safdarjung Hospital 4. Dr. Ritu Majumdar, HOD, Dept. of PMR, LHMC and Associated Hospitals, New Delhi 5. Dr. Manas Pratim Roy, ADG, Dte. GHS, MoHFW 6. Ms. Rajni Kalra, Asstt. Professor, Physiotherapy, Pt. Deendayal Upadhyaya National Institute for Persons with Physical Disabilities. 7. Dr. VP Gupta, Delhi Council of Physiotherapy and Occupational Therapy. 8. Mr. C. Varghese, SO, AHS division, MoHFW 9. Ms. Shivangini Kar Dave, Lead Consultant, HRH Cell, MoHFW 10. Ms. Chhavi, Consultant, HRH Cell, MoHFW
Minutes vetted By:	Dr. Anil Kumar, Addl DDG

Discussion: (Items/Knowledge Shared)

The chairman welcomed all members and Dr. Manas Pratim Roy briefed the participants about the background. With the existing conflict between the minimum standard of Physiotherapy centre as approved by National Council for Clinical Establishments, in comparison to what is now provided in respect of Physiotherapist Professional under recently enacted National Commission for Allied and Healthcare Professions Act, 2021, there is a need for reaching to a consensus.

Dr. Anil Kumar informed that as per the Minimum Standards for physiotherapy centre as approved by National Council for Clinical Establishments under the Clinical establishments Act, 2010, the definition of Physiotherapy centre is “ an Allied Health Care establishment providing, physical therapy services by a physiotherapist to patients with a recent prescription or referral from a licensed medical doctor (physician/surgeon). Depending on the disease condition, a review and re-prescription by a treating medical doctor is required for continuing physiotherapy services.”

As per the National Commission for Allied and Healthcare Professions Act, 2021; Physiotherapy Professional is a person who practices physiotherapy by undertaking comprehensive examination and appropriate investigation, provides treatment and advice to any person preparatory to or for the purpose of or in connection with movement or functional dysfunction, malfunction, disorder, disability, healing and pain from trauma and disease, using physical modalities including exercise, mobilization, manipulations, electrical and thermal agents and other electro therapeutics for prevention, screening, diagnosis, treatment, health promotion and fitness. **The physiotherapist can practice independently or as a part of a multi-disciplinary team and has a minimum qualification of a baccalaureate degree.**

Dr. Anil Kumar also informed that as per Clinical establishments Act, a clinical establishment can be owned/controlled/managed by a Government or Society/Trust/Company or local authority or a single doctor. Thus, a Physiotherapist is required to work accordingly under any of the afore-mentioned authorities.

Dr. V.P. Gupta mentioned that State Councils have been set up for physiotherapy in eight states and the State Councils permit independent practice for Physiotherapists. Ms. Rajni Kalra stated that the Physiotherapists are capable to examine, diagnose and treat the patients who fall within the scope of Physiotherapy practice. The Physiotherapists can always refer cases to doctors, radiology etc if required to do so. The Physiotherapists are also trained to advise the required investigations. Both Dr. Gupta and Ms. Rajni insisted that the Physiotherapists are capable to do independent practice and doctors have limited knowledge of their domain.

Ms. Dave highlighted that under the National Commission for Allied and Healthcare Professions Act, 2021, there are 56 different professions and 10 different professional categories, with focus on task shifting. All states/UT have been notified about it and it is not optional for the states. ILO code of professions has been used for defining these professions. The purpose is that an Allied Health professional may be able to do whatever he is supposed to do as per his qualification and experience.

Dr. Wadhwa insisted that a physiotherapist should act only after prescription from a doctor. A Physiotherapist is not trained to investigate and diagnose a disease condition and should not be writing

prescription. Dr. Ritu also endorsed the same views and also emphasized that there is no regulation of the institutes providing training to Physiotherapists and many times quality of education and training in Physiotherapy has been observed to be of sub-standard quality.

Mr. C. Varghese informed that National Commission for Allied and Healthcare Professions is yet to be notified and after that further sub-commission or expert groups will be notified for respective allied health professions. HRH division of Ministry is in the process of setting up an interim commission and only after same is notified. Only after this is done, the exact standards for Physiotherapy professionals can be worked out and these are expected to define the exact scope of practice by Physiotherapists.

Dr. Bhowmik emphasized on improving the standards of physiotherapists in India and it is urgently needed, as Physiotherapists are involved in many important areas like Sports. As the National Commission for Allied and Healthcare Professions is evolving now, it is expected that the commission will be able to bring in improvement in quality of education and training in allied health professions including Physiotherapy. We may wait for the standards to be set up for Physiotherapists by the proposed interim commission under the Act, which is also expected to define the scope of practice of Physiotherapists. Till then the provisions as applicable under Clinical Establishments Act, 2010 and the minimum standards approved by National Council for Clinical establishments will continue to remain valid.

Miscellaneous Items:

The meeting ended with thanks to the chair and all the participants.

Decisions Made: (What, Why, Impacts)

We may wait for the standards to be set up for Physiotherapists under the National Commission for Allied and Healthcare Professions Act, 2021 Act. Till then the provisions as applicable under Clinical Establishments Act, 2010 and the minimum standards approved by National Council for Clinical establishments will continue to remain valid.

Next Steps: (Task, Assigned to, Checkpoint Date)	Person/ Authority Assigned	Due Date