Healthcare providers body lays stress on PPP to improve sector

KOLKATA: NATHEALTH (The Healthcare Federation of India), the apex association of Indian healthcare providers, on Friday said that the government should advocate public-private partnership (PPP) projects to significantly improve the entire healthcare scenario in the country. NATHEALTH’s ‘Aarogya Bharat 2025’ report recommends that India should have a system that supports private investment in healthcare better. Its recommendations include use of PPP to expand infrastructure, improve financing, lay stress on research & development and use of technology.
PPP will boost health care ecosystem: NATHEALTH

PTI  ■ New Delhi
The Healthcare Federation of India (NATHEALTH), the apex association of Indian health care providers, on Thursday said the government’s attention on public-private partnerships (PPPs) could significantly improve the health care ecosystem in the country.
MRP for coronary stents to be announced in three months

The medical device has been added to NLEM recently, bringing it under price control.

BINDU SHAJAN PERAPPADAN

NEW DELHI: Within three months, the general public can expect the government to announce the maximum retail price for coronary stents, which has recently been added to the national list of essential medicines (NLEM) 2015, effectively bringing them under price control.

While patients, doctors and Indian-stent manufacturers have welcomed the move, others aren't celebrating the announcement.

Recommendations

Speaking about the move, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, K.L. Sharma explained that the move has been based on recommendations which noted that all types of stents, including the latest biodegradable stents should be put on the list.

Sub-committee

"The sub-committee has submitted its report and the government has accepted its recommendations. We have now sent this to the Department of Pharmaceuticals and the process of price fixation will take its natural course. We are hopeful that the maximum retail price will be fixed and announced in the next three months. Processes are already underway to ensure that a transparent and fair mechanism is adopted for price ceiling, which will benefit the poorest of the poor and make good quality stents available at the best price," Mr. Sharma added.

The sub-committee of expert cardiologists was constituted by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in October 2015 under the chairmanship of Professor Y.K. Gupta, head, department of Pharmacology, All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), to examine the issues relating to the essentiality of coronary stents and recommend whether it should be included in the NLEM.

Medicines and devices listed in the NLEM are sold at the price fixed by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA), while those in the non-scheduled list are allowed a maximum annual price hike of 10 per cent.

Dr. Ripen Gupta, Interventional Cardiologist, Fortis Hospital, Vasant Kunj, said: "Of course we welcome the move as the cost benefit goes directly to my patients and I am hoping that more people will be able to afford this advancement in technology.

Price control will ensure that base price is uniform across government, semi-private and private facilities. It will also bring in much needed transparency in the system. Drugs outside price control can be sold at prices set by the manufacturer, which is governed by profit making and market forces."

"We appreciate the government move to include stents in NLEM, which will ensure more transparency and accessibility of these essential life-saving devices for the patients. However, we request NPPA to follow a diligent process to arrive at a fair MRP considering the fact that unlike pharmaceuticals, every Class III medical device like Drug Eluting Stents (DES) needs huge investment on R&D and clinical trials and an ad-hoc decision may be detrimental to the Industry," said Gurmit Singh Chugh, managing director, Translumina Therapeutics, DES, manufacturer in India.

Ganesh Sabat of Sahaja-
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PPP model can strengthen health care in India: NATHEALTH

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NEW DELHI: The apex body of health care providers, NATHEALTH, has said that the health care ecosystem in India will be significantly strengthened based on the public-private partnership (PPP) model. PPP model has also been advocated by NITI Aayog to improve health services in the country against the backdrop of dismal performance of public hospitals at the district level, the health care federation said in a statement.

NATHEALTH’s ‘Aarogya Bharat 2025’ report recommends that India should have an ecosystem that better supports private investment in health care. The recommendations include PPP to expand infrastructure, Design a unique PPP framework relevant to the health care sector and standardize concessionaire agreements and also establish an independent agency responsible for managing PPP’s with monitoring of execution. We expect the government’s initiative to promote PPP model to become a game-changer and hope that the body will promote innovative PPP models as envisaged by Niti Aayog,” NATHEALTH president Rahul Khosla said.

“We look forward to working closely and supporting the Government in this initiative towards achieving quality and universal health care at all levels”, said Khosla.

This is a radical shift from the current system where the government funds pay salaries to physicians and specialists only in the Primary Health Centers.

At the secondary level, choice and competition are seen as cost-effective options. Community health centers and private nursing homes could both be offered incentives by the government for efficient treatment and whoever provides better services will get more attractive compensation.

NATHEALTH strongly advocates that access to health care for all Indians could be made possible through the suggested model with a nominal increase in the health care sector’s allocation in the Union Budget if the Indian economy continues to grow 7-7.5% in the next several years. “NATHEALTH’s ‘Aarogya Bharat 2025’ report encourages the build-out of health care infrastructure beyond the metros and in under served areas with appropriate incentives and public-private partnerships”, informed Anjan Bose, Secretary General, NATHEALTH.
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