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अपर सचिव एवं मिशन निदेशक (रा.स्वा.मि.)
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Additional Secretary & Mission Director (NHM)

भारत सरकार
स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण विभाग
स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय
Government of India
Department of Health and Family Welfare
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

D.O.No.Z.15015/10/2023-NHM-I
Dated: 11th May, 2026

Dear Colleague,

Free Drug Service Initiative (FDSI) is a key component of India's public health system, aimed at ensuring the availability of essential medicines free of cost at all levels of public healthcare facilities. It seeks to reduce out-of-pocket expenditure, improve access to quality medicines, and promote rational drug use through standardized procurement, efficient supply chain management, and adherence to Essential Medicines Lists (EMLs). Strengthening availability and affordability of medicines, FDSI plays a critical role in enhancing health outcomes and supporting equitable healthcare delivery across the country.

Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS) provide a framework for ensuring quality healthcare delivery and improved health outcomes nationwide. The revised IPHS 2022 guidelines, released in April 2022, updated facility norms, including Essential Medicines Lists (EMLs), and defined the minimum medicine requirements at various levels of public health facilities. Subsequent revisions of the IPHS EMLs in 2023 and 2024 further strengthened these norms by incorporating additional medicines such as iron chelating agents and medicines for haemophilia and sickle cell anaemia in alignment with emerging public health needs.

In view of the expanded range of services under Comprehensive Primary Health Care at Ayushman Arogya Mandirs (AAMs), as well as programmatic requirements and inputs from States/UTs, the Essential Medicines Lists (EMLs) for AAM-Sub Health Centres (SHCs), AAM-Primary Health Centres (PHCs), and Community Health Centres (CHCs) have been reviewed and revised again.

The revision has been undertaken considering the following:

1. Expert consultations to ensure the clinical relevance and appropriateness of the medicines included.
2. Operational guidelines and Standard Treatment Guidelines (STGs), incorporating necessary updates to ensure relevance, effectiveness, and alignment with current healthcare needs.
3. Inputs received from States/UTs to reflect field-level requirements.
4. Alignment with recommendations from program divisions of the Ministry to support various national health programs.
5. Consideration of the IPHS Guidelines 2022 for the scope of services and the CPHC guidelines.

The revised EML is molecule-based and aligned with current evidence-based best practices. Additionally, the EML has been categorized into **Essential** and **Desirable** medicines as follows:

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टीबी हारेगा देश जीतेगा / TB Harega Desh Jeetega

Facility Level	Old EML	Revised EML	Essential	Desirable
AAM-SHC	106	113	80	33
AAM-PHC	172	179	132	47
CHC	300	301	210	91

The Essential list represents the minimum mandatory set of medicines to be ensured at respective facilities, while the Desirable list provides flexibility to States/UTs to include additional medicines based on local requirements and service delivery priorities. This revision will increase the availability of Essential Medicines across all levels of facilities.

In this regard, States/UTs are requested to kindly align and update their respective Essential Drug Lists in accordance with the revised IPHS EML for AAM-SHCs, AAM-PHCs, and CHCs, and to ensure the assured and uninterrupted availability of all Essential medicines at the facility level to support service delivery. The revised EML for AAM-SHC, AAM-PHC, and CHC is enclosed as **Annexure 'A'** for reference.

With regards.

Yours sincerely,

AD
11.5.26

(Aradhana Patnaik)

To

Additional Chief Secretary/ Principal Secretary/ Secretary (HFWJ - All States & UTs

Copy to:

1. Mission Director, NHM- All States/UTs
2. DGHS/DHS- All States/UTs
3. Central Medical Corporations - All States/UTs
4. ED, NHSRC.