



GOVERNMENT OF KERALA

Abstract

Health & Family Welfare Department - COVID -19 Treatment charges in Private Hospitals for the Walk in Patients (Other than KASP beneficiaries and Government referred patients) finalised – Orders issued.

HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE(F) DEPARTMENT

G.O.(Rt)No.1066/2021/H&FWD Dated, Thiruvananthapuram,
10/05/2021

- Read 1 G.O. (Rt) No .1246 /2020/ H &FWD Dated. 06.07.2020
2 G. O. (Rt) No. 12/2021/H&FWD Dated. 01.01.2021
3 G.O.(Rt). No.392/2021/DMD dated. 03.04.2021
4 G.O. (Rt).No 980/2021 /H&FWD dated. 30/4/2021
5 G.O.(Rt). No.393/2021/DMD dated 1.5. 2021
6 Interim Order of Hon'ble High Court of Kerala in WP (C)
No. 10659/2021(S) Dated 6/5/2021

ORDER

The State has been combating the surge in COVID-19 cases during the second wave requiring hospitalisation in huge numbers. COVID bed occupancy in hospitals are reaching saturation in many districts in both Government and Private hospitals. In these circumstances as per Government Order read as 3rd paper above Government have decided to set apart 50% of the beds in Government, Private (including Private Medical Colleges), cooperative and ESI Hospitals exclusively for the treatment of COVID -19 patients requiring hospitalisation.

Earlier as per Government Order read as 1st paper above the State Government have incorporated specific treatment packages in the current transaction system whereby the KASP beneficiaries and government referred patients can avail free treatment for Covid-19 in all the Empanelled Private Hospitals.

As per the Interim Order in W.P. (C) No. 10659/2021(S) read above, the Honourable High Court of Kerala has directed the state to arrive at treatment package rates for Private Hospitals for Walk-in Covid-19 patients before the next sitting on the 10th May 2021. Multiple rounds of discussions were held with the Private Hospital Associations by the Principal Secretary Health, State Health Agency and Director of Health Services. Based on the discussions, the rates to be charged by the Private hospitals for treatment of COVID-19 were recommended.

Government have examined the proposals in detail and hereby notify the following rates for regulating the prices to be charged by Private Hospitals and private nursing homes in providing quality care to directly Walk in COVID-19 Patients (Other than KASP beneficiaries and Government referred patients) in the State of Kerala.

Bed Category	Rate in INR per day (Non-NABH)	Rate in INR per day (NABH)	Inclusions	Exclusion*
General WARD	Rs. 2645	Rs. 2910	a. Registration Charges b. Bed Charges c. Nursing and Boarding Charges d. Surgeons, Anesthetists, Medical Practitioner, Consultant Charges	a. High-End Investigations* like C.T. Chest / HRCT Chest b. PPE Kits* c. Costly Medications *like i. Remdesivir ii. Tocilizumab
HDU	Rs. 3795	Rs. 4175	e. Anesthesia, Blood Transfusions, Oxygen f. Medicines and Drugs	
ICU	Rs. 7800	Rs. 8580	g. Pathology and radiology tests: Medical procedures include essential Radiological imaging and diagnostic tests such as X-ray, USG, Hematology, pathology etc.	
ICU WITH VENTILATOR	Rs. 13800	Rs. 15180	h. Pre and Post Hospitalization expenses: Expenses incurred for consultation, diagnostic tests and medicines before admission of the patient in the same hospital and cost of diagnostic tests and medication up to 15 days after discharge from the hospital for the same ailment	

*These exclusions shall be governed by the MRP rates of the manufacturer of the drugs and consumables wherever applicable and shall not exceed the same, and the

rates for the diagnostics and investigations shall be as per the declared Hospital rates and undertaken as per medical protocols. If the Union Government or the State Government notifies rates of any drug/consumables/diagnostics in public interest, the same shall be made applicable

* The Rate for RTPCR test shall continue as fixed by Government Order read as 4th & 5th papers above .

*The rates for other Covid -19 tests such as Xpert NAT , TRUE NAT, RT -LAM, RAPID Antigen will continue as fixed by Government Order read as 2nd paper above ,inclusive of all PPEs,swabbing charges and other charges related to the test.

*The PPE Kits shall be two per general wards per day and 5 per ICUs per day as agreed by the associations, and the rates shall not exceed the MRP declared by the manufacturer.

*The treatment and management protocol as defined in the Kerala State COVID 19 guidelines Version 3, No. 17/31/F2/2020 Health, dt 25th of April, 2021, is to be scrupulously followed.

The Following Instructions should comply as mandatory :

1. Charges for various treatments, consumables, medicines, doctors and nursing should be made known to the public and will be monitored by the Secretary Clinical Establishment Act.

As per clinical establishment Act 2018, chapter 6, para 19, the services given to public by each and every clinical establishment including rates for the same should be displayed in a visible and accessible place in the organization and/or in its website. This should be done for the information of patients and/or bystanders coming to the organization to avail its services.

- a. All hospitals must publish their treatment rates in a place accessible to the

public inside the hospital.

- b. All hospitals must publish treatment rates in their own website.
 - c. The treatment rates already published in their website must be linked with the website of KSCCE.
2. Based on section 14 of Kerala Clinical Establishment (Registration & Regulation) Act 2018, District Medical Officer of Health who is the ex-officio Vice Chairperson for implementation of the Kerala Clinical Establishment (Registration & Regulation) Act 2018 would function as the Grievance Redressal Officer for any grievance in the respective district regarding overcharging by the hospitals. The Grievance at the district level will be received by the District Medical Officer (H) of the District concerned and the contact numbers and emails to receive the complaints shall be set up by the DMO(H) and publicised immediately.
 3. Under Section 36 of the Kerala Clinical Establishment (Registration & Regulation) Act 2018 and rule 30 of the Kerala Clinical Establishment (Registration & Regulation) Rule 2018, State level authority has been constituted as below ,vide notification No 1046Admin/KSCCE/2020 dated 19.03.2021. The same shall function as the appellate authority in all matters pertaining to overcharging by the private hospitals.

Chairman - Shri.C.K.Padmakaran

Member 1 - Dr.V.Rajeevan

Member 2 - Dr.V.G.Pradeep Kumar

The contact numbers and emails of the appellate authority will be publicised immediately by the Secretary of the KSCCE.

4. If any hospital is found to be charging more than the rates as indicated above, they shall be levied a penalty which shall be ten times the additional charges by the concerned DMO(H).
5. There shall not be exorbitant pricing of Covid related consumables like PPE, pulse oximeter, Masks, portable Oxygen cylinders and consumables else, action shall be initiated by the District Collector against the concerned ,under relevant provisions of the law. No shops or hospitals shall charge more than MRP, for these items .
6. The DMO(H)s in the districts shall take appropriate action as per the Clinical Establishment Act in ensuring the quality care is provided by the private hospitals and charges as indicated above Only are collected.

7. The District Collectors and DMOs in the State shall enforce the above regulations and make wide publicity to the rates charged and services to be provided by the private hospitals. Any deviations from the rates fixed shall also be deemed to have committed offences under the provisions of the Disaster Management Act 2005, the Kerala Epidemic Diseases Ordinance, 2021 and other relevant provisions in law and action initiated against such facilities.
8. All the private hospitals must admit the patients immediately as per the admission protocols. No advance shall be insisted at admission time and emphasis shall be on patient care.
9. All Government Orders, circulars, advisories issued by the State for Covid-19 management shall be followed diligently by all hospitals.
10. The above rates will be enforced with immediate effect until further orders.

(By order of the Governor)

RAJAN NAMDEV KHOBRADE
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY

To:

The Advocate General , Ernakulam (with C/L)
The State Mission Director, NHM

The State Police Chief, Thiruvananthapuram

The Executive Director, State Health Agency , Thiruvananthapuram.

The Director of Health Services, Thiruvananthapuram.

The Director of Medical Education, Thiruvananthapuram.

The Managing Director, Kerala Medical Services Corporation Ltd

The Secretary, Kerala State Council for Clinical Establishments.

Principal Accountant General (Audit/A&E) of Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram.

All District Collectors

All District Medical Officers

Disaster Management Department

Information & Public Relations (Web & New Media) Department

Stock File/ Office Copy to file F2/257/2021-HEALTH

Forwarded /By order

Section Officer