



Healthcare is a Key policy priority for the government - Shripad Yesso Naik

While launching ETHealthworld.com, an initiative of The Economic Times, "Ensuring universal access to drugs and diagnostics is a key policy priority for the government", said Shripad Yesso Naik, union minister of state for health and family welfare, Naik added, the government is intends using a wide range of techniques, such as a central network of ambulances for timely emergency care, mobile medical units in tribal areas, boat clinics in the river islands of Assam and telemedicine in states such as Tripura and Odisha, to reach out to the unaddressed population besides use of m-health to build the capacity of frontline workers

"However, India is a country of diversities and there is no disagreement on the fact that there is need to optimally harness public resources, technologies and innovation to effectively manage the growing burden of diseases, bridge the crucial skill gap in the sector and reduce the cost of providing better access to affordable healthcare," the minister said.

Emergency healthcare services and primary health care services are a fundamental right of every Indian and, it is the state's responsibility to provide these,

Health issues do not make it to the political agenda because no one loses an election in India over them and the middle class, an important electoral constituency, has chosen to exit the public health system, said Girindre Beeharry, India country director, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Barring the last general elections, health didn't find much of a mention in the manifestos of most political parties, said KG Ananthakrishnan, managing director, MSD India.

Citing a recent Harvard School of Public Health study, Daljeet Singh, president, Fortis Healthcare, estimated India would lose about \$ 6 trillion to non-communicable diseases over the next 15 years.

The core issue in Health care continues to be the public private partnership in the delivery, both in rural and urban sectors. The restriction of Private involvement to secondary and tertiary care undoubtedly increases the gap between rich and the poor.

Dr. K. Ravindranath

CMD - Global Hospitals Group

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Free Diagnostics For All - Government To Provide



A recent publication that appeared on Times of India says 'The Centre is set to announce a scheme for providing free diagnostic tests, including several blood tests, x-rays and advanced CT scans, for those visiting public health facilities. Private service providers will be roped in wherever required.'

While the idea of providing free diagnostics has been hailed by all, health economists and public health experts expressed concern over outsourcing the tests to the private sector, arguing that it was an "expensive and inefficient" way to provide the services.

Costs of drugs and diagnostics constitute between 70% and 80% of health expenditure in the country and are estimated to push five crore people below the poverty line annually.

The proposed 'national strategy for providing essential diagnostics facilities free for all' is meant for anyone visiting a public health facility - from a village health post to a district hospital. A panel of experts are learnt to have provided the government with a list of diagnostic tests considered essential for all categories of health facilities. The health ministry has also consulted some of the biggest companies in the diagnostic sector, including SRL, Dr Lal PathLabs, Quest Diagnostics, Mahajan Imaging and Star Imaging to thrash out all service provider issues.

The initiative is expected to help promote the diagnostics and reagents sectors, which currently have just over 20% share in the medical technology market. Under the scheme, existing diagnostic infrastructure in government institutions is to be strengthened, and where there is no infrastructure, state governments would be supported to engage with private service providers for collection of blood samples, analysis and reporting. The scheme is meant to outsource only highcost, low-volume tests.

Health economist Sakthivel Selvaraj expressed skepticism, saying "With a slashed health budget and no allocation in the budget for the scheme, where will they find additional resources for this? Tamil Nadu and Rajasthan are already providing diagnostic facilities more efficiently without outsourcing. Why not follow that model? Why follow a model of outsourcing that has failed in several states like Bihar and Chhattisgarh? Outsourcing only adds to the cost". Some of the Health Initiatives involving private sector like the 'ARIGYA SREE' has not only burdened the Governments but also wakened the system with claims for reimbursement for unwanted procedures and non-existent patients.

However, government sources pointed out that the scheme is meant to be implemented under the National Health Mission, which has always seen the allocated money remaining unspent. Sources added that instead of huge capital expenditure on procuring diagnostic machines, the government could provide services to more people for the same amount of money by outsourcing. The scandals in NRHM are not unknown to many. The money unspent always indicate poor planning with no proper operational strategies.

Source: The Times Of India

BGS Global Hospitals Performs 100 Liver..Transplants - A First in Karnataka

BGS Global Hospitals - Super Specialty Quaternary Care, on 12th May '15 announced the completion of 100 Liver Transplants, by the Global Integrated Liver Care Team. First hospital in Karnataka to do so.



A robust liver transplant program with a team comprising of highly skilled liver transplant surgeons, hepatologists, specialized anaesthetists and intensive care experts. Dedicated and specially trained nurses form an important part of the team. Equally important are physiotherapists, nutritionists, and counsellors. Notably, BGS Global Hospital is the only hospital in Karnataka with a special dedicated liver ICU where all forms of advanced liver diseases can be managed in a state of the art manner.

Lung Problems: Latest Killer Disease in India



A recent report by World Health Organization states that death due to lung diseases in India is on the rise, accounting for around 989,907 or 11% of total deaths per year. With almost 1 million people in India dying every year of respiratory diseases, the country can soon be ranked number 1 in

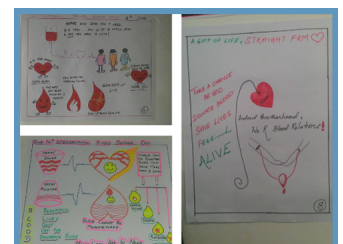
terms of deaths due to lung diseases.

Recent trends show that instances of chronic respiratory diseases are also on the rise in key cities of Andhra Pradesh, especially in Vijayawada and the neighbouring districts, exacerbated mainly by vehicular pollution, air and dust pollution, habit of smoking and increased population.

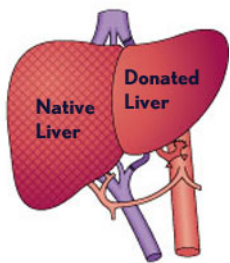
To curb this disturbing trend and raise awareness on Lung Transplantation, Global Health City, Chennai has organized a press conference for the benefit of the general public of Andhra Pradesh, particularly to the people in and around Vijayawada.

Poster Making Competition

Poster Making Competition was conducted on 9th June 2015 at Global Hospitals L.B. Nagar, Hyderabad on the occasion of World Blood Donor's day (14th June 2015). Employees from all the departments actively participated in the event.



Rare of its kind Auxiliary Liver transplant performed



Global Hospitals Mumbai has added one more feather to its cap, by performing Western India's first auxiliary liver transplant on a 14 year old Yash from Mumbai suffering from Crigler-Najjar Syndrome (CNS). The liver was donated by the patient aunt.

Yash's parents were very disturbed with his condition, but were reluctant to undergo a liver transplant due to various reasons and fear. They imported a photo therapy machine to keep Yash under light. Due to this condition, Yash could not lead a normal life like other children of his age, as he had to compulsorily take photo therapy, and was confined to the four walls of his home.

Yash came to Global Hospital and the team of experts at Global Hospital decided to perform the rare complex auxiliary liver transplant on him. The transplant was successfully performed and Yash has been discharged from the hospital and now can lead a normal life, but will have to be on immunosuppressant medications.

Global Community Connect

Global Health City's endeavour to raise awareness about various health problems and strengthen its community presence through HEALTH AWARENESS TALK sessions is being well appreciated and accepted by the neighbourhood residents. Held on every Saturday, the Awareness sessions witness enthusiastic participation of a small but genuine group of guests from neighbourhood.



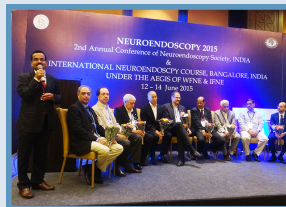
The sessions are addressed by an eminent specialist from the scheduled specialty, who shares his knowledge and also interact with the participants at a personal level. In the month of May, GHC conducted awareness sessions on Diabetes, Cancer, Endocrinology, Hypertension and Stroke led by Dr. Baraneedharan, Dr. Balaji Subramanian, Dr. Shruti Chandrasekharan and Dr. D. S. Halprashanth respectively. It is a matter of great delight that this initiative has brought about a positive traction to the brand GHC by taking it little closer to the community it serves.

World Blood Donor Day



Blood Donation drive conducted at Global Hospitals, L.B. Nagar on 13th & 14th June 2015 on the occasion of World Blood Donors day.

Second Annual Conference of Neuroendoscopy Society, India.



For the first time, under the leadership of Dr N K Venkataramanaa, the BGS Global Institute of Neurosciences (GIN) organized the prestigious Annual Conference of Neuro Endoscopy Study Group India and International Endoscopy Course from June 12 to 14 in Bangalore.

The global event featured live surgeries, discussions, scientific sessions, presentations and much more involving a distinguished galaxy of neurosurgeons, neurologists, researchers, professors and scientists from all around the world.

On the occasion, Prof Dr Narayan Reddy, former Director of NIMHANS, released a book published by Dr Charles Teo, titled Principles and Practices of Keyhole Brain surgery. Dr Reddy also facilitated the faculty.

Global Hospitals, Lakdi-ka-pul Celebrates 16th Annual Day



Global Hospitals, Lakdi-ka-pul celebrated 16 Annual Day celebrations on 18th May'15 with active participation by the staff. The Annual Day was marked by cutting of cake by the Chairman & Managing Director, Dr. K. Ravindranath.

On the occasion, Chairman Dr. K. Ravindranath congratulated the entire staff and dedicated the achievements to them. The celebration was marked by award distributions to the senior staff who completed 5 & 10 years. Various activities which included singing competition, cultural events and dance performances by the employees, were part of the Celebration

Global Hospitals, Lakdi-ka-pul organises Swachh Hyderabad.



Global Hospitals Lakdi-ka-Pul, as part of its corporate social responsibility initiative, organised Swachh Hyderabad program on 1st June'15. The program was organized in association with various shops and establishments located in and around Lakdi-ka-pul.

Around 100 members, who included staff from the hospital and other establishments, participated in the three-hour program.

First-of-its-kind Lung transplant by Global Health City, Chennai



In first-of-its-kind Lung transplant in India, Dr. Rahul Chandola and Dr. Govini Balasubramani adopted an innovative technique to give a new lease of life to a 34 year old woman from Haryana. The lady was suffering from Scleroderma, which eventually led to pulmonary fibrosis.

This condition necessitated the replacement of Lungs with healthy ones. By the quirk of good fate, even a cadaveric adult Lung was available. But, unfortunately the short height of the lady was a stumbling block for the transplant process. Her height was merely 151 cm and the available Lung was too big for her thoracic cavity. Hence, the surgeons took a less trodden path to save her life. They reduced the volume of the Lung by 25% by suitably removing its lobes to render it fit to the purpose. Though this procedure is frequently adopted in western countries for severe end stage pulmonary cases, in India there are few specialists competent in performing these procedure.

Rare Minimal Access Spine Surgery performed at Global Hospitals

For the first time in India, expert team of doctors in Global Hospitals performed minimal access spine surgery on 82-year-old Ankylosing Spondylitis (Bamboo Spine) patient. The surgery was conducted by implanting 14 screws in the spinal cord. In this case the 82 year old patient having Ankylosing Spondylitis had a fall in November 2014. Post the fall he was constantly complaining of excruciating back pain. In Feb 2015 he became totally bed ridden. He was paralyzed in the legs.



After carefully examining his case doctor decided that there was no option but to perform surgery on the patient. The surgery was all the more challenging as the patient had other complications as well. There was no chance of performing a traditional surgery, as "open surgery," The team decided to conduct a minimally invasive surgery.

Rare & Innovative procedure POEM, helps woman swallow food effortlessly after almost four decades

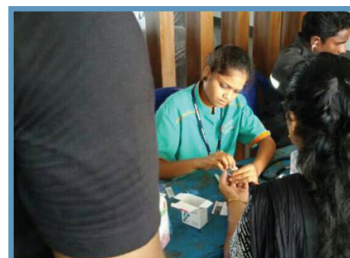
What began as a little discomfort while swallowing food 38 years ago, progressively worsened until 48-year old Ponni of Kanchipuram could barely swallow any solid food. For her, eating 2 Idlies used to be a nightmare. After numerous visits to physicians who didn't have any answers, Ponni was finally referred to Global Health City.

After evaluating her conditions, the team decided to perform Peroral Endoscopic Myotomy (POEM) - a relatively new technique that has gained recognition at a very rapid pace with very good outcomes. It is a virtually non-surgical as no external cut is made on the body and the blood loss is close to nil. After the procedure, Ponni's recovery was remarkable and she was able to talk and walk from the next day itself. More importantly, after a gap of about 4 decades, Ponni could finally start eating and swallowing without any difficulty.



Hypertension Screening Drive by Global Health City, Chennai

We all know the long term repercussions of HYPERTENSION. Everybody understands the havoc it wrecks in the life a person. But, hardly anybody takes interest to find whether (s)he is inflicted by it; until something worse happens. This year's WORLD HYPERTENSION DAY, marked on 17th of May, had a theme around this concept; KNOW YOUR NUMBERS. To take this message to the general public and to urge them to find out their BLOOD PRESSURE status, Global Health City surged an awareness-cum-BP screening drive in its neighbourhood as well as the corporate organizations. Through the campaign, which was run for a week, about 2400 people were screened for their BP, BMI and blood sugar levels.



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