



GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

No. HFW 167 ACS 2021

Karnataka Government Secretariat
Vikasa Soudha
Bengaluru Date:20.05.2021

CIRCULAR

Subject: Mandatory establishment of Step-Down facilities and facilitating patients to shift to such facilities.

Reference: Letter no Chief Comm./PSR/62/2021-22, from Chief Commissioner, BBMP, Dated:18-05-2021.

Due to a surge in the number of Covid-19 cases it has become imperative to increase the number of beds in private hospitals, private medical college hospitals and nursing homes for the treatment of such patients. In order to increase access of beds for patients, the Government vide Notification No:DHS/PS/04/2021/KPME, dated 22.04.2021, has issued detailed guidelines for setting up Step Down Hospitals by Private Medical Establishments in association with Hotels. In Bengaluru around 17 Hospitals vide reference above have tied up with as many as 32 hotels providing over 1200 beds for treatment facilities to recovering COVID-19 patients (Annexure-1).

However, still prominent hospitals in the city of Bengaluru vide reference above have not tied up with step-down hotels to establish such facilities (list enclosed as Annexure-II). As a result, patients who are well on the path of recovery and who do not require 24x7 medical attention/hospitalization, continue occupying hospital beds thereby creating a shortfall in beds for patients seeking new admissions. Due to this, valuable time is lost in allocating beds to vulnerable patients and patients are deprived access to beds especially the critical care beds.

It has become imperative to make setting up of Step-Down facilities mandatory for all hospitals especially those with higher critical care beds to enable the treating doctors to make a decision based on the patient's recovery status for shifting them to Step Down facilities well before 10 days. This would result in more beds being made available for critical care patients for timely interventions and treatment at hospitals.

In this regard, the Hotel Association through the chain of hotels is willing to offer an adequate number of rooms for setting up step-down facilities as per guidelines and BBMP is willing to facilitate this process.

Hence, it is directed that all hospitals treating Covid-19 patients including those registered with SAST shall set up Step-Down facilities by 24th May 2021 and empower doctors to recommend eligible patients to such facilities.


(Jawaid Akhtar)

Additional Chief Secretary to Govt.,
Department of Health and Family Welfare

To :

1. Chief Commissioner - BBMP, Bengaluru
2. The Commissioner, Health & Family Welfare Services, Bengaluru
3. The Mission Director – NHM, Bengaluru.
4. The Special Commissioner - Health, BBMP, Bengaluru
5. Deputy Commissioners of all the Districts.
6. The Director, Health Family Welfare Services Bengaluru
7. The Director, Medical Education, Bengaluru
8. All Divisional /Joint Directors, Health and Family Welfare Department.
9. The Chief Health Officer, BBMP.
10. All the District Health Officers / District Surgeons / Administrative Medical Officers and Taluk Medical Officers and Medical Superintendents of all General Hospitals in Karnataka.

Copy for kind information:

1. Chief Secretary, Government of Karnataka, VidhanA Soudha, Bengaluru.
2. The Principal Secretary, Department of Medical Education, Bengaluru.
3. The PS to Hon'ble Minister for HFW and Medical Education, GoK.