



PENSIONERS' RAIL SAMPARK

QUARTERLY BULLETIN OF

RAILWAY SENIOR CITIZENS WELFARE SOCIETY (RSCWS)

**DEDICATED TO
THE CAUSE OF
PENSIONERS
SINCE 1991**

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H.O 32, Phase- 6, Mohali, Chandigarh -160055
Email : rscws1991@gmail.com (M: 9316131598, 836045258, 9569631598)
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IDENTIFIED BY DOP&PW - UNDER PENSIONERS' PORTAL GOVT. OF INDIA
MEMBER, SCOVA (STANDING COMMITTEE FOR VOLUNTARY AGENCIES) (GOI)

G. S. Sethi, CME (Retd),
Chairman, RSCWS,
142, Phase 4, Mohali -160059
M: 9417492026, Ph: 0172 2227451
Email: gurcharansinghsethi@yahoo.co.in

T. S. Kalra, CEE (Retd)
Executive Editor PRS & President RSCWS,
1577, Phase 3 B-2, Mohali-160059
M: 9876173490, Ph: 0172 4620289
Email: tejkalra@gmail.com

HARCHANDAN SINGH, SSE (Retd) NR
Editor PRS & Secretary General RSCWS,
32, Phase 6, Mohali, Chandigarh-160055
(PH:09316131598, 8360452584, 0172 2228306)
Email: rscws1991@gmail.com

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FOR FREE CIRCULATION TO MEMBERS RSCWS

President's New Year Message

Tejinder Singh Kalra



Welcome to 2021 on a hopeful, promising note. Twentytwenty, the year gone by, has been a turbulent one. We have spent it under the devastating shadow of Covid pandemic, preceded by Shaheen Bagh protests, the threatening standoff at LAC with China and now the Kisan Aandolan over the new farm laws. It has thrown difficult challenges and at the same time taught us crucial lessons towards our life style changes. In spite of all these crises situations, the human spirit triumphs. We have still celebrated, 'virtually' or with physical presence, in reasonably lively spirits, our various religious and cultural festivals; and on railway pensioners' front, conducted virtually, with enthusiastic participation of our society's members, the Executive committee meetings, including the one on pensioners' day- the 17th Of Dec, and General Body meetings, as per our yearly schedule..

'Rail' has been our 'way' of life ; it also forms the lifeline of the country. Irrespective of our country's several diversities, we are a pan India, largest, well knit, one family, whose members work day & night , running passenger & goods trains efficiently, round the clock, along the length & breadth of the country. Even now, post retirement, you would have experienced a 'sense of feel at home', coming near to rail –p way or any other rail premises, in any part of the country. It should be our pride & privilege to maintain the bonhomie with all our rail –mates, all over, irrespective of our old separate departmental affiliations.

In the last week of the ending year, we may not only think of the spent preceding year; rather contemplate on many previous years, as far back as our memory can be stretched; from our school days, onwards to 30-40 years of railway service and to life after retirement . You'll find many happy moments to feel hilarious about and satisfied. There would be some regrets, like ' had I done this or should not have done that', I would have been in a better position.

Life could have been better off or worse off . Today we may curse the biting winter cold but remember that it is the same cold which we yearned for in scorching summers and paid enough amount for it through Coolers & ACs. It is better to take life as it is and try to improve upon things without cribbing. Let the wheel of life keep rolling with the least possible friction like the wheels of our rolling stock on rail tracks.

It would be satisfying to engage in some social causes. As a part of RSCWS, we contributed Rs One Lakh to PM's (Covid) Care Fund earlier this year and now your society has donated Rs 10,000/= to Pingalwarha destitute home at Chandigarh. This penchant for social causes should be kept up.

Let's not only be routinely wishing 'happy new year' but consciously endeavouring towards POSITIVITY, good health and happiness for all of us and our extended families in the new year-2021.

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WE WISH A VERY HAPPY, HEALTHY & PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR-2021 TO ALL OUR READERS & WELL-WISHERS

List of Railway empanelled Pvt Hospitals in CHD, MHL, PKL

as on 18-12-2020

- For Cashless treatment of bona fide railway medical beneficiaries

(For all available Specialties except COVID-19 which is not covered under CGHS,)

On Referral by CMS NR UMB or in Emergency on approval of CMS within 24 Hours

Sl.No.	Hospital Name	Contract up to	Contact No.
1.	Ivy Super Specialty Hospital Sector 71, Mohali	15-12- 2021	9988823456 (Abhishek: 8699999914)
2.	Max Super Specialty Hospital, Near Civil Hospital, Phase VI, Mohali	Renewal of empanelment – Under Process	
3.	Indus Super Specialty Hospital, Opp.old D.C. Office, Phase 1, Mohali	07-07-2021	0172-5044944, 5044945
4.	Sri Guru Harkishan Sahib Eye Institute & Multispeciality Hospital, Sohana, Sector 77, SAS Nagar, Mohali	10-07-2021	0172-2295000
5.	Amar Hospital, Super Specialty & Heart Centre, Sector 70, SAS Nagar, Mohali-1	12-03-2021	0172-5037683
6.	Mukat Hospital & Heart Institute, Sector 34-C, Chandigarh	15-10-2021	9872048149
7.	Grecian Super Specialty Hospital, Sec. 69, Mohali	26-08-2021	9899649020
8.	Fortis Multi Specialty Hospital Sector 68, Mohali	Renewal of empanelment not applied for due to pending Bills by NR UMB.	
	LAB/DIAGNOSTIC CENTERS AT CHD EMPANELLED BY NR UMB		
1.	Atulya Healthcare/CHD	15-1-2021	
2.	Spiral CT & MRI/CHD	20-12-2021	

ENTITLEMENT OF WARDS (as per 7th CPC Pay):

General Ward: Up to Rs.47600; Semi-Private Ward: Rs.47601 to 63100; Private Ward: 63101 & above

HOSPITALS EMPANELLED WITH RSCWS IN THE TRI-CITY

- FOR TREATMENT AT CGHS RATES IN OPD, IPD & DIAGNOSTICS, FOR RSCWS MEMBERS
- ON PRODUCTION OF MEMBERSHIP CARD OF RAILWAY SENIOR CITIZENS WELFARE SOCIETY (RSCWS)

Sl. No.	Name of Hospital	EMPANELLED FOR THE PURPOSE.	Contact No
1.	FORTIS MULTI-SPECIALITY HOSPITAL, SECTOR-62, PHASE-VIII, MOHALI	Cardiology, Cardio-thoracic and vascular surgery, Joint replacement Surgeries, Surgical Oncology, Medical Oncology, Radiation Oncology, Kidney transplantation, Urology, Endocrinology Nephrology with dialysis, Pediatric Urology, Bariatric surgery, Liver Transplant, Critical medicine and anesthesia care, Laparoscopic Surgery, Trauma Centre.	0172-4692222. 0172-5021222 9872170582 (Dr. Ajinder S.)
2.	IVY MULTI-SPECIALITY HOSPITAL, SECTOR-71, MOHALI	Cardiology & Cardiovascular and thoracic Surgery Oncology (Medical, Surgical and Radiation Oncology), Neurosurgery, Neurology, Obstetrics & Gynecology, Orthopaedics (including joint and Hip Replacement), Urology, Nephrology (including dialysis and Kidney transplant), Gastroenterology, Gastro Surgery Plastic Surgery, ENT, Endocrinology, Radiology.	0172-7170000, 0172-5044333/ 0172-5044347 (Abhishek: 8699999914)
3.	MUKAT MULTI-SPECIALITY HOSPITAL, SECTOR 34 A, CHD	All Available specialties	0172-83853047 9872048149

Railway Board's OM No.2018/Trans Cell/Health/CGHS (eOff.No.3270783) Dated: 28/12/2020

Sub: Improvement of Health Delivery System & Emergency Treatment in Railway Empanelled Private Hospitals

Several representations have been received from Railway Medical Beneficiaries including retired officials regarding problems being faced during treatment in emergency at empanelled Hospitals. In order to improve the Health Delivery System on Indian Railways and streamline the treatment in emergency at Railway empanelled hospitals, following have been approved:

1. Railway medical beneficiaries (serving/retired) under emergency condition can get admission in any railway empanelled hospital without any prior referral. The empanelled hospital should not insist on referral from railway hospitals or demand advance in emergency conditions and the hospital will provide cashless/Credit medical facilities to patients.
2. The emergency conditions are defined in Memorandum of Understanding between CGHS empanelled hospitals and Government of India (CGHS Authorities) (Annexure-I) or as amended by CGHS from time to time and same will be applicable in Indian Railways.
3. The valid UMID Card/CTSE Card issued will be treated as identification as Railway Medical Beneficiary. Railways have to make sure that these cards are accepted in the empanelled hospital under the jurisdiction/empanelment.
4. Situation may arise where Railway hospital, after rates or hospital rates, whichever is less on the patient's cost.
5. The nature and appropriateness of the emergency is subject to verification, which may be verified, inspected or medically audited by the nominated authority on random basis at its own discretion.
6. The Hospital will intimate all instances of patients admitted as emergencies (without prior permission to the Railway authorities, at the earliest and within 24 hours and Railway will revert within next 24 hours, otherwise it will be treated as deemed approval. The empanelled hospital will clearly mention/certify the emergency condition as per MoU.
7. Railway Hospital as well as empanelled hospital will share the contact number and email address for communication for this purpose and will ensure to put on the website of Railways as well as of the hospital. The documents and approvals will be shared on the email to save the time and difficulties faced by the patients. The empanelled Hospital will not insist to patients to get the approval of referral/extension from the Railway Hospital. Same will be coordinated and approved on the contact number and email by the empanelled Hospital and Railway Hospital.
8. Railway hospitals shall refer to the empanelled hospital for appropriate duration as per the package. In case of additional stay for treatment, same procedure will be followed as per Para 6 & 7 above.
9. Also, the empanelled hospitals will provide the necessary treatment in OPD or otherwise to valid Railway Medical Beneficiary at the CGHS approved rates or hospital rates, whichever is less for the treatment in non-referral and non-emergency case at Railway Medical Beneficiary's cost.
10. Zonal Railways shall include provisions for conditions given from 4.1 to 4.9 above, in their MoU with the referral hospitals and also include that refusal to provide treatment to bona fide railway medical beneficiaries in emergency cases without valid ground would attract disqualification for continuation of empanelment. Also, MoU to be updated including removal of ambiguities

Annexure-I to: RB OM No.2018/TransCell/Health/CGHS (eOff.No.3270783 Dt: 28/12/2020

TREATMENT IN EMERGENCY

The following ailments may be treated as emergency which is illustrative only and not exhaustive, depending on the condition of the patient:

❖ **Acute Coronary Syndromes (Coronary Artery Bye-pass Graft/ Percutaneous, Transluminal Coronary Angioplasty) including Myocardial Infarction, Unstable Angina, Ventricular Arrhythmias, Paroxysmal Supra Ventricular Tachycardia, Cardiac Tamponade, Acute Left Ventricular Failure / Severe Congestive Cardiac Failure, Accelerated Hypertension, Complete Heart Block and Stoke Adam attack, Acute Aortic Dissection.**

1. Acute Limb Ischemia, Rupture of Aneurysm, Medical and Surgical shock and peripheral circulatory failure.
2. Cerebro-Vascular attack/Stokes, Sudden unconsciousness, Head injury, Respiratory failure, decompensated lung disease, Cerebro-Meningeal Infection, Convulsions, Acute Paralysis, Acute Visual loss
3. Acute Abdomen pain.
4. Road Traffic Accidents / with injuries including fall.
5. Severe Hemorrhage due to any cause.
6. Acute poisoning.
7. Acute Renal Failure.
8. Acute abdomen pain in female including acute Obstetrical and Gynecological emergencies.
9. Electric shock.
10. Any other life-threatening condition.

Memorandum No. RSCWS/HO/CHD/Memo/RB-Med/2020-16 Dated: 30-12-2020**From SG RSCWS to Director General (Railway Health Services), Railway Board**

(CC by Email to: DG RHS <dgrhs@rb.railnet.gov.in

(For kind Attention of: Sh. Umesh Balonda/E.D/S&T, Dr. Vijay Kumar/P.ED/Health & Sh Ajeet Kumar Srivastava/Exec.Dir. Accounts, Transformation Cell)

**Sub: Improvement of Health Delivery System and Emergency Treatment in Railway Empanelled Private Hospitals
SOS: To allow RELHS Cards to continue till UMID Cards are generated/issued to concerned Pensioners**

Ref: Railway Board's Letter No. 2018/TransCell/Health/CGHS (eoff. No. 3270783) Dated 28/12/2020 Para

While appreciating the issuing of guidelines to improve the Health Delivery System on Indian Railways vide letter referred to above, it is observed that the following grey area needs to be clarified on top priority to avoid serious problems to the concerned affected pensioners or their dependents:

- i) Vide Para 3 of the above referred letter "Valid UMID Card/CTSE Card will be treated as identification." However, a large number of RELHS beneficiaries have not so far been able to generate the UMID Card for various reasons, since they do not have adequate facilities or knowhow to generate the UMID cards of their own. They will all be denied of the medical treatment in the empanelled hospitals unless immediate amendment/ clarification is issued in this regard.
- ii) It is requested that RELHS Cards be continued to be treated as valid identity - till all beneficiaries are able to generate UMID Cards - for Treatment in Emergency in Private Empanelled Hospitals.
- iii) As per Para 10 of the letter under reference, "Zonal Railways shall include provision for conditions given from Para 4.1 to 4.9 above." But Para 4.1 to 4.9 are not available in the above referred letter. These may please be circulated.

DOP&PW OM No.18/1/2020-P&PW(H)-Vol-III-6786 Dated: 23rd November, 2020**Subject: - Extension of period for submission of Life Certificate by Central Government pensioners till February 28, 2021.**

The undersigned is directed to refer to this Department's O.M. No. 18/1/2020-P&PW(C)-6681 dated 11th September, 2020 regarding the extension of timeline for submission of Life Certificate by Central Government pensioners from 1st November, 2020 onward, till 31st December 2020.

2. This Department has been in receipt of numerous petitions from various Pensioners' Associations as well as individuals requesting a further extension in the date for submitting Life Certificate, in view of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic and the vulnerability of elderly population to Corona Virus. After consultation with the office of Controller General of Accounts, it has now been decided to further extend the existing timeline for submission of Life Certificate. This year, all Central Government pensioners may submit Life Certificate from 1st November, 2020 onward, till February 28, 2021. During this extended period, the pension will be continued to be paid by the Pension Disbursing Authorities (PDAs) uninterrupted.
3. The above measures are expected to avoid rush at branches, stagger the submission of the LCs by the elderly population while maintaining social distancing, and to that extent, prevent the spread of Corona virus. PDAs shall also ensure proper arrangements and social distancing measures at the branches and prevent overcrowding.
4. All Pension Disbursing Authorities are requested to take note of this OM for compliance and give wide publicity to the same amongst pensioners.

DOP&PW OM No. S.14025/43/2020-EHS, New Delhi Dated: 14th December, 2020**Sub: - Reimbursement of cost of 'Pulse Oximeter for the family of COVID-19 positive CS(MA) beneficiaries.**

In view of the current coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, all out efforts are being made by the Government to contain its impact by instituting measures at community as well as at individual level.

2. As measuring of oxygen saturation level is one of the most important parameters for monitoring the health of COVID-19 patients, it has been decided to reimburse the cost of pulse oximeter purchased by the beneficiaries as per the following conditions:
 - i. CS(MA) beneficiaries, who have been tested positive for COVID-19 infection are permitted to purchase one pulse oximeter per family. In other words, in case there are more than one COVID positive in a family of CS(MA) beneficiary, they can claim reimbursement only for one pulse oximeter;
 - ii. The reimbursement shall be claimed as per actual cost of pulse oximeter, subject to a ceiling of Rs. 1200/-; iii. The claim for reimbursement of cost of such pulse oximeter shall be submitted as per prescribed norms enclosing therewith a copy of the COVID-19 test report, to the concerned Ministry/ Department.
3. This OM's beneficiaries are applicable from 16.06.2020, as in the case of CGHS

MOH&FW (DG/CGHS) OM No. Z 15025/12/20201DIR/CGHS Dated 29-12-2020

Sub: Reimbursement of cost of OPD Medicines: Special Sanction in view of COVID-19- till 28th February 2021- regarding

In view of the Corona Virus Disease (COVID-19), all out efforts are made by the Government to contain its impact by instituting measures at community as well as at individual level.

2. In this regard the undersigned is directed to draw attention to the OM of even number dated 27.03.2020, 29.04.2020, 29.05.2020, 24th August 2020 and 30th September 2020 vide which an option has been provided to CGHS beneficiaries getting medicines for Chronic diseases, to purchase medicines based on the prescription held (prescribed by CGHS Medical Officers/CGHS Specialists /other Govt. Specialists/ Specialist of empanelled hospital) till 31st December 2020, irrespective of Non-Availability certificate from CGHS or otherwise. However, several representations are received in the Ministry seeking extension of the period in view of the COVID-19 Pandemic.
3. The matter has been reviewed by the Ministry and it is now decided, in continuation of the earlier OM on the subject, that CGHS beneficiaries getting medicines for Chronic diseases shall be permitted to purchase medicines based on the prescription held (prescribed by CGHS Medical Officers/CGHS Specialists /other Govt. Specialists/ Specialist of empanelled hospital) till 28th February, 2021 on the same conditions as per the earlier OM dated 27.03.2020. It is also clarified that the CGHS Wellness Centres are functional and CGHS beneficiaries also have the option to collect medicines through CGHS Wellness Centres as per normal practice, instead of purchasing from market.
4. Issued with the approval of Integrated Finance Division, MoHFW vide CD No 2255 dated 29.12.2020.

Memorandum No. RSCWS/HO/CHD/ Memo CMS/2020-14 Dated: 1-12-2020

From President RSCWS to CMS, N. Railway, Ambala and copies to others.

Sub: Issue of medicines for chronic cases.

- Ref: i) Our letter No. RSCWS/CHD/HC/05/09/20 dated 22.09.2020, to DRM and copies to others
ii) Railway Board letter No.2014/H/16/1/Medicine dated 09.12.2014
iii) Ministry of Health & FW letter No.2-2/2014/CGHS HQ/PPT/CGHS(P) dated 21.10.2014
Vide our letter at reference (i) above, it was requested that medicines in chronic cases should at least be issue for three months at a time.

It has since been found, vide references (ii) & (iii) above-copies enclosed- that Railway Board's instructions already exist for issuing of medicines for 03 months at a time.

For ready reference, copies of the above letters are enclosed.

Please issue instructions to your health Units and Dispensaries for compliance of Railway Board's letter

Medicines in Railway Hospitals/ Dispensaries.

Ref: - Ministry of H&FW's letter No.2-2/2014/CGHS HQ/PPT/CGHS (P) dated 21.10.2014 & 25.08.2014.

Please find enclosed herewith copy of letters cited under reference. DG/RHS has desired that same procedure may be followed in Railway Hospitals and dispensaries.

MOHS OM F.No 2-2/2014/CGHS HQ/ PPT/CGHS(P) Dated: 21-10- 2014

Sub: - Issue of medicines / reimbursement of expenditure on investigations / treatment procedures | implants and other medical devices under CGHS- regarding

With reference to the above mentioned subject the undersigned is directed to draw attention to paragraph (c) and (d) of the Office Memorandum of even No dated the 25th August 2014 and to state that in response to the representations received from CGHS beneficiaries in this regard, it has now been decided by the competent authority to withdraw the provisions under para (c) and para (d) of the Office Memorandum No 2-2/2014/CGHS HO/ PPT/CGHS(P) dated the 25th August, 2014 and to restore the status existing prior to the issue of above stated OM dated the 25th August, 2014.

In other words, medicines under CGHS can be issued for up to 3 months at a time in chronic diseases on the basis of a valid prescription and for up to 6 months for those beneficiaries who are going abroad, as was the case prior to issue of OM dated 25.8.2014.

Letter No. 168-Med/Grievances/HQ/PLIV Dated 28.09.2020 from PCMD NR to CMS UMB

Sub: Issue of medicines for chronic cases to pensioners by Chandigarh Health Unit

Ref: Rly. Senior Citizen welfare Society Letter No. RSCWS/HC/05/09/20 Dated 22.9.20

Please find enclosed herewith photocopy of the above referred letter on the subject. It is requested that the matter may be examined and appropriate action as per rule may be taken at your end. Action taken report in the matter may be furnished to this office Urgently.

Instructions issued by CMS UMB to HU CHD regarding above letter of PCMD & RB

CMS UMB has since sent a copy of letter issued from Railway Board dated 09/12/14 to Health Unit in charge Chandigarh, regarding issue of Medicines for Chronic Diseases for 3 months to patients.

RSCWS Memorandum No. RSCWS/HO/CHD/RB Memo-CD /2020-13 Dated: 7-12-2020 from Secretary General RSCWS to Director General (Railway Health Services), Railway Board,

Sub: - i) Issuing of comprehensive updated list of chronic diseases due to urgent necessity thereof;

ii) Reimbursement of cost of OPD Medicines for Chronic Diseases as a special sanction due to COVID 19 – Request for extension of date till March, 2021.

Refer: i) Railway Board's letter No. 2020/H-1/7/2/B Dated 28-3-2020 & follow up thereof;

ii) Railway Board's letter no. 2006/H/DC/JCM Dated 12-10-2006;

iii) Railway Board's Letter No. 2006/H/DC/JCM dated 24-04-2017.

1. Reimbursement of cost of OPD Medicines for Chronic Diseases, has been allowed vide Railway Board's letters cited at Sl. No. i) above as a special sanction due to COVID-19. But the List of Chronic Diseases has not been updated even after a lapse of nearly 14 years since the same was circulated vide Railway Board's letter dated 12-10-2006 cited at No. ii) above.

2. As per enclosed letters of Punjab Health Dept. and of Chandigarh Administration, as many as 32 diseases have been enlisted as chronic.

3. Railway Board, vide its letter dated 12-10-2006 had circulated a list of ten (10) chronic diseases which was given as an example and the definition of Chronic Diseases was mentioned as under:

“Any disease which persists for a period of approximately three months or more is defined as chronic disease.”

4. Vide Board's letter dated 24-04-2017 cited at iii) above, it was clarified to all CMD's of Indian Railways that: “The list circulated vide letter dated 12-10-2006 was NOT exhaustive and DG (RHS) directed that Zonal Medical Officers should decide whether a disease is Chronic or not.”

5. In spite of the said instructions from DG(RHS) circulated vide letter dated 24-04-2017, the CMDs of Zonal Railway have not so far updated the list circulated by Railway Board vide letter of 12-10-2006 even to include some of the widely declared Chronic diseases like Glycemia etc. which are lifelong diseases which can only be controlled by medicines but cannot be cured.

6. Non-updating of the list of Chronic Diseases and non-issue of a consolidated uniform list of such diseases, by the Railway Board, is causing harassment and hardship to the affected beneficiaries of the above cited orders – as the affected patients are unable to reach out to the CMDs for consideration of their Diseases for inclusion in the list of Chronic Diseases. As such, the clarification issued by the Board have been totally ignored and not implemented.

7. Various State Governments including Punjab and Union Territory of Chandigarh have notified a lists of 32 Chronic Diseases which last for 5 years or more as per DOH&FA Punjab letter No. 12/10/12-5C5/1165 Dated 04 June 2010 (copy attached) vide which the employees, Pensioners and their dependents suffering with these 32 Chronic Diseases are entitled to claim Reimbursement for the Medicines of these 32 Diseases.

8. a) Due to lack of a comprehensive list of Chronic Diseases from the Railway Board, the patients with Chronic Diseases in case of Railway Beneficiaries continue to suffer financially in addition to their medical condition; b) COVID has not yet ended and availability of its Vaccine on mass scale is bound to take a long time.

Keeping all above facts in mind, to assuage the beneficiaries, and to bring about a uniformity in application, you are requested to:

i) Please issue a comprehensive list of Chronic Diseases applicable throughout Indian Railways;

ii) Please extend the date till March, 2021 for Reimbursement of cost of OPD Medicines for Chronic Diseases as a special sanction due to continuation of the pandemic COVID-19 and non-availability of mass immunization vaccine as of now.

Encls: 1. Copy of letter & List of Chronic Diseases Issued by DOH&FW Punjab

2. Letter of UT Chandigarh adopting the List of Chronic Diseases DOH&FW Punjab

3. Letter & List of Chronic Diseases Issued by GMC&H, Sector 32, Chandigarh

4. Signed copy of this Memorandum in PDF

Memorandum No. RSCWS/HO/CHD/P/Memo-Medical/10/2020-12 -10.2020 from President RSCWS to DRM, Northern Railway, Ambala Divn, Ambala Cantt. Email: drm@umb.railnet.gov.in

Sub: Empanelment of private Hospitals and Diagnostic Centres by the Railways in Chandigarh Tri-city

Ref: (i) Railway Board's letter No.2018/Trans Cell/ Health/CGHS dated 26.10.2018
(ii) Railway Board's letter No.2014/H-1/19/3/PNM, dated 05/10/2015
(iii) Railway Board's letter No. 2016/H-1/11/69/Hospital Recognition dated 23.12.2016
(iv) This office letter No. RSCWS/HC/04/07/20 dated 20.07.2020

GMs of Indian Railways were empowered, vide letters at reference (i) & (ii) above, to recognize all CGHS empanelled Hospitals, Eye Hospitals/Centres, exclusive Dental Clinics, Cancer Hospitals, Diagnostic Labs and Imaging Centres, for referrals and treatment in emergency of railway beneficiaries, at CGHS rates.

Vide letter at reference (iii) above this was extended to also include ECHS and ESIC empanelments.

In Chandigarh tricity, i.e Chandigarh, Mohali and Panchkula, CGHS has empaneled 28 hospitals and 08 diagnostic centres (as per list placed at Annexure I).

Against the above, Railway empanelment includes only 08 hospitals and 02 diagnostic centres empanelment of which is also continuously falling due to non-extension thereof by the Railways (as per position indicated in the list placed at Annexure II), although the railway medical beneficiaries are settled over a larger area of Chandigarh, Mohali and Panchkula districts. Secondly, the empanelment of the two top hospitals, viz Fortis and Max as well that of a couple other Hospitals stands suspended because of nonpayment of their long outstanding bills by Ambala division and various other official reasons even though as per standing orders empanelment of Hospitals has to be automatically extended except for the specified reasons.

Furthermore, there is no empanelments of exclusive Eye Hospitals and Dental clinics by UMB Division.

Proposed additional Hospitals for Empanelment by Railways:

In case it may not be possible to empanel all the CGHS hospitals, at least the following ones, out of CGHS list may please be empanelled, in addition to the already existing ones, to cover the wide spread area of Chandigarh tricity where a number of RELHS optees and other Railway beneficiaries and their families/dependents are settled.

Proposed additional Multi specialty Hospitals:

Landmark Hospital, Sector 33, Chandigarh; Alchemist plus Ojas Hospital, Panchkula' Paras Hospital, Panchkula

Proposed Eye Hospitals:

1. Grewal Eye Institute, sector 9, Chandigarh, 2. JP Eye Hospital, Phase 7, Mohali; 3. Drishti Eye Hospital, Panchkula; These three are well reputed exclusive eye hospitals located in the hearts of tri-cities of Chandigarh, Mohali and Panchkula.

(The already empanelled SGHS Eye Hospital, Sohana started as an eye hospital some 20 years ago but now it is Sri Harkrishan Sahib eye hospital Trust having a multi-disciplinary hospital in which Eye clinic is just one part. It is located rather out of the way and is a crowded one.)

Proposed Dental Clinics:

Presently no Dental clinic is empanelled. The following two can be covered.

i) Dr Kochar House of Smiles, Chandigarh; ii) Indus Hygia Dental, Mohali;

Proposed additional Diagnostic Centres:

Only two Diagnostic centers are empanelled, both in Chandigarh and both are Imaging centres. No diagnostic lab is on the panel. The following well known ones may be empanelled:

Dr Lal Path Lab, Chandigarh; Chandigarh Clinical Labs, Chandigarh; SRL labs, Chandigarh;

Helix Path Labs, Mohali, Health Map Diagnostics, Panchkula; Health Map CT Scan & MRI Centre, Civil Hospital, Sector 6, Panchkula

Two-way usefulness of empanelments:

The prime advantage is cashless treatment with proper referral from the CMS.

Secondly, when the retired employees do not want to go into the botheration of getting authorized referral, they can directly get consultation and treatment from these hospitals at sufficiently subsidized CGHS rates.

Thirdly, senior citizens, particularly those in the 70 plus age group, are generally advised to get different medical tests, specific to their health conditions, done about twice a year. They can get the tests done at subsidized rates without any referrals.

It is earnestly requested that the empanelment be extended at the earliest to cover more hospitals and diagnostic centres as brought out above and the empanelment of Fortis and Max be got restored by clearing their heavy outstanding dues early.

Copies for favourable action to-

CMS/UMB, cmsambala97@gmail.com and Pr CMD, HQ office/NDLS, cmd@nr.railnet.gov.in

MINUTES OF VIRTUAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING (VECM), RSCWS HELD ON THE PENSIONERS DAY ON 17TH DECEMBER, 2020 ON WHATSAPP

Shri T.S. Kalra President RSCWS, presided over the Virtual Meeting

1. Secretary General, RSCWS Sh. Harchandan Singh welcomed the Members, greeted everyone on Pensioners Day and requested Shri TS Kalra to address the meeting.

2. Opening address by the President Sh. TS Kalra:

Very warm welcome to you all to the VECM in this cold winter season. On the Covid front, things are gradually easing out, though we must continue to observe full safety protocol till the much-awaited vaccination reaches us; that may come up by Feb/March. But on our own railway medical front, a lot more needs to be done for us senior citizens, both by the division as well as the HQ office. On our part we keep contacting the concerned authorities at Divn. & HQ levels on a regular basis. The next 'Rail Sampark' is likely to be issued by Dec end or early Jan. Pl send your articles for inclusion in this journal. Good luck and Best of wishes!

3. Address by the Secretary General, RSCWS Sh. Harchandan Singh:

I welcome you all in this Virtual Executive Meeting of RSCWS and convey my heartiest congratulations to all Pensioners on the Pensioners Day - being celebrated all over India. On this day in 1982, Supreme Court had delivered a landmark judgment in the Case of D. S. Nakra V/s Union of India wherein it was ruled that there should be no disparity between old and new pensioners. As a result of this we got some parity from 5th, 6th and 7th Pay Commissions regarding fixation of pension between new and old pensioners at least at the minimum level of the scale. But still a lot has to be done in this matter at the National Level for parity at higher levels as well. A case has already been filed and being heard in CAT New Delhi that the Govt. has not implemented the recommendations of the 7th Pay Commission regarding fixation of pay as per number of Increments in revised Pay Levels. We are sure to get full parity if Pensioners continue the struggle for the same.

This last year has been a year of pandemic the World over which not only resulted in various lockdowns but also resulted in heavy loss of lives. We are required to submit our live certificate during the month of Oct. Nov. every year. As a result of our persistent efforts Govt. first extended the date of submission to 31 Dec. and have now allowed it to be submitted by 28th Feb. 2021. We have also taken an initiative of recording the DLC of pensioners & Family Pensioners at their own home. I am particularly thankful to Sh. R. K. Dutta and Sh. Jaspal Singh who have done about 130 DLCs of Railway and non-Railway pensioners, some of whom were bedridden or could not visit the bank.

The orders for reimbursement of cost of medicine for Chronic disease, has been extended up to Dec. 2020. We are trying to get it extended up to April 2021 since no medicine has been developed so far and the epidemic is far from over. But in the absence of consolidated list of Chronic Diseases, this order in itself is incomplete. Despite our persist reminders, Railways and Health Ministry have so far not come out with a consolidated list of 32 Chronic Diseases as issued by the Punjab Govt. MOH*FW.

Residents of Chandigarh Tricity are facing a lot of problems due to non-availabilities of proper medical facilities. Presently the patients or their attendants are forced to go to Ambala personally to get permission/approval of treatment in Private Empaneled Hospitals in case of Emergency and for referral. Even the permission is granted for only 3 to 5 days at a time thus forcing attendants to visit repeatedly. Previously this was being done through FAX etc. This is due to high handed attitude adopted by the last CMS/UMB Sh. C. S. Anand. This unfair practice is still prevalent, and we are constantly pursuing the matter to change the system to rectify the harassing procedure.

UMID (Unique Medical Identity Cards) cards have not been generated for most of the pensioners as the pensioners are not able to generate these cards online on their own. We are approaching Rly. Bd., GM/NR, & DRM/UMB to constitute teams to arrange to get the UMID Cards prepared.

We have many other problems which have to be resolved. It is, therefore, essential that we have a strong organization and we remain united. I thank the members who have sent their membership subscription on line. Those who have not paid as yet may please deposit their subscription and Social Welfare Fund online, through Net Banking in the RSCWS Bank Account details of which are circulated in our journal PRS and on RSCWS Website and WhatsApp group. We need a strong organization to pressurize the Administration to solve our problems. Your suggestion and support will help make this organization strong

Last year's Balance Sheet duly audited has also been uploaded. Please approve the same. Give your valuable suggestions and approve the items placed on the Agenda. Thank you. Jai Hind.

1. EC resolved as under, subject to the approval of GBM:

i) Approved the Balance sheet of RSCWS for the year 2019-20

ii) A) Decided to constitute a "Core Committee" of RSCWS to act as Standing Committee for continuous interaction, consultation and decision on urgent and day to day important issues within the framework of the Constitution and Resolutions of the ECM & GBM.

B) Core Committee will comprise of the following as its Ex-Officio Members:

a) Chairman. b) President, c) Secretary General, d) Joint Secretary General, e) Treasurer, f) Finance Secretary and g) Any other person or Member as Special Invitee.

iii) Decided to nominate Sh. TPS Bhalla as Joint Secretary General RSCWS and Sh Navtej Singh (Site Adm. RSCWS.com) as a special Invitee to the Core Committee and the ECM.

iv) Approved the Balance sheet of Accounts of RSCWS for the year 2019-20 (copy attached)

v) Decided to donate Rs.10,000/- from SWF (Social Welfare Fund) of RSCWS to the All India Pingalwara Charitable Society (Regd.) through its Branch at Pingalwara at Palsora Sector 55 Chandigarh, where over 40 handicapped destitute patients are provided with proper care, treatment and separate room to each of them.

vi) Decided to intensify the campaign for better & patient friendly health care facilities for Railway Beneficiaries – especially Pensioners and Family Pensioners, especially in the following areas:

A) Streamlining of system for referral of Patients to empanelled hospitals as per Board's orders.

B) Authorisation of ADMO Health Unit Chandigarh to refer to private empanelled hospitals, with online permission of authorised Medical Officer) / CMS at Ambala divisional hospital C) Online approval of Cashless treatment in Emergency in empanelled hospitals

D) Discontinuation of unfair practices, introduced by ex CMS UMB reg.:

> Insisting upon the Attendant / relative of the patient to come to UMB to get approval for treatment in emergency in empanelled hospital.

>> Unjustly allowing limited days for treatment in empaneled hospitals only for 5 days at a time and again insisting on getting of extension of treatment.

i) Not Issuing of medicines for chronic diseases for 3 months as per orders of Rly. Board.

iii) EC decided to honour Shri Sorabh Singh XEN NR Chandigarh with a Shawl and a Memento for his extra ordinary and exemplary gesture to help a Pensioner Trackman with Rs. 3 Lakhs from his personal savings on the eve of the marriage of Trackman's daughter, as he had not been paid his settlement dues by the Railways even 9 months after his retirement (*due to official negligence or the Lockdown etc.*).

iv) Decided to hold VGBM of RSCWS in Jan, 2021, to consider and approve the above issues.

v) EC reiterated the appeal to the Members to pay their Subscription for 2020-21 @ Rs.300 PA & Social Welfare Fund (SWF) @ Rs.500/- PA through Internet Banking or NEFT to credit the same in the account of Railway Senior Citizens Welfare Society" in Punjab & Sind Bank, Sector 7, Chandigarh, SB Account No. 08561000100242, IFSC Code PSIB 0000856.

or Members may pay their Subscription & SWF directly to the TREASURER RSCWS SH CP SINGH (MOB: NO. -98880 54477) AND GET THEIR (NEW/UPDATED) MEMBERSHIP CARD FROM HIM.

5. Concluding Address by Shri T.S. Kalra President RSCWS:

"Thank you everybody for giving his/her consent to all the agenda items. SGHS gave a comprehensive briefing of the recent activities of our Society. I thought there would be some discussion; some new suggestions/ proposals would & should come up towards further strengthening of our RSCWS as asked for by SGHS in his opening address. Please think over in your leisure time and put forward your fresh views/ suggestions at your convenience later on. All EC members should get pro-active in furtherance of the causes concerning all of us.

Today is pensioners' day; So Jai Pensioner, Jai Kisan, (although both seem to be relegated to the back seat at present) and Jai Jawaan as ever.

We are going to meet again early next year on the GBM platform. Till then remain healthy and warm (both physically and mentally) in this cold winter. Good Luck to you all.

6, Closing Address by Sh. G.S. Sethi Chairman RSCWS:

I sincerely thank President Sh. Kalra, Sh. Harchandan Singh and members of the EC for attending the virtual meeting. All of you work hard to serve the members of RSCWS. I agree that we have a lot of important work to do related to health issues, to strengthen the organisation, enroll new members and collect dues from the existing members. There is a great value of our organisation in serving retired railway officials. I can say from personal experience where S. Harchandan Singh is helping my sister Tripatpal Kaur in the revision of her pension. Again, I like to thank you all for your hard work and commitment to the success of RSCWS.

7. Vote of thanks by Secretary General, RSCWS:

Respected Sh. Kalra, Sh. Sethi and all the members of the Executive Committee, I thank you all for actively participating in this Virtual Executive Committee Meeting of RSCWS. I am sure you would also have felt fully involved into it and I thank you for that.

Today's approval of the various items of the Agenda has given us more motivation for more effectively and actively work for the cause of organization and I thank you for your consent for the same. There are a number of challenges specially on the Health Care and I assure you that we shall do the needful to resolve these problems in the coming period.

I would like to just add to my opening address that at present there are six Empaneled Hospitals viz.

- Ivy Super Speciality Hospital Sector 71 Mohali,
- Grecian Hospital Sector 69 Mohali,
- Indus Hospital Phase 1. Mohali,
- Guru Harkishan Eye Institute & Multispeciality Hospital, Sohana.
- Amar Hospital Sctor 70 Mohali &
- Mukut Hospital, Sector 34 Chandigarh.

All these Hospitals are empanelled to provide to the RELHS, Railway beneficiaries with cashless treatment on referral from CMS/UMB as well as for Emergency Treatment on cashless basis. We are trying to get you the facilities for the approval of referral and Emergency from the ADMO/CDG and we shall work more vigorously for the same.

As for the members of RSCWS, as you are well aware, that they get the treatment at CGHS rates in non-referral cases and non-RELHS cases in: Ivy Hospital, Fortis Hospital, and MUKUT HOSPITAL. I assure you that we shall be available for any help that would be required in this regard by you at any stage and at any time.

I would like to remind you that 31 DEC.2020 is the last date for filing of your Income Tax Returns (since extended to 15th January, 2021}. Please file by due date failing with you will be attracting heavy penalties. ITR of the RSCWS has been filed by CA. I am sure you would be doing the same early if not already submitted.

Members who have not yet paid their subscription for the current year are requested to contribute the same through online banking as already requested and resolved in the Executive and General Body Meetings.

I thank you all for actively participating in the meeting. I thank Sh. G. S. Sethi and Sh. T. S. Kalra for their guidance in this period and for their motivating messages to the meeting.

I am sure with your active participation we will be able to strengthen RSCWS and meet the challenges ahead especially in respect of Health Care problems. I look forward to the best of health for you in the coming year and wish you all a very Happy New Year. I look forward to your suggestions and active participation in the virtual General Body Meeting in Jan. 2021 on WhatsApp.

I wish you all, the best of Health, Happiness in the NEW YEAR.

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PRESIDENT & SECRETARY GENERAL, R SCWS



Rs.10,000 DONATED TO PINGALWARA BY RSCWS

Cheque for Rs.10,000/- being presented from Social Welfare Fund (SWF) RSCWS, to the Incharge of the Branch of Pingalwara at Palsora Sector 55 Chandigarh by Sh. HS Sachdeva Sr. Vice President RSCWS & Sh. Jaspal Singh Finance Secretary RSCWS.

NOTICE FOR VIRTUAL GENERAL BODY MEETING (VGBM): RSCWS

FROM 11 AM ON 22nd Jan TO 8 PM ON 23-1-2021 on WhatsApp Group RSCWS VGBM

All Members of RSCWS are requested to participate positively and give their views & consent to the items on the Agenda. Members who are not on WhatsApp, may send their agreement through SMS to Mob No. 9316131598.

1. Inaugural Address by Sh. T. S. Kalra, President, RS CWS.
2. Address by the Secretary General, RSCWS Sh. Harchandan Singh.
3. To consider and ratify the decisions of the EC (as per details in the Minutes of VECM (on Page 8 to 10 of PRS)
4. Any other point or suggestions by the Members.
5. Concluding address & Vote of thanks

Sd/- Er. HARCHANDAN SINGH
Secretary General, RSCWS,
M: 9316131598, M: 8360452584

OPEN FORUM:

FALLACY IN MODIFIED FORMULA RECOMMENDED BY THE FEASIBILITY COMMITTEE FOR REVISION OF PENSION OF PAST PENSIONERS W.E.F. 1-1-2016

By Shri N. P. Mohan, Ex-Chairman, RSCWS

1. Parity in pension between the past pensioners and those retiring after 1-1-2016 was the main recommendation (1st option) of 7th CPC contained in Para 10.1.67 & 10.1.68 of the Report. This was sought to be achieved by fixing the notional pay of the pre 2016 pensioner in the pay matrix based on the increments earned by the pensioner in the Level from which he retired.

2. On 17-8-2016, the Government appointed a Committee of 5 members with Secretary DOP as Chairman to examine the feasibility of implementation of the first option for revision of pension of Central Civil pensioners and Defense pensioners as mentioned in Para 10.1.67 (i) and Para 10.2.87, respectively of the report of the 7th CPC. The report was submitted by the Committee on 14-12-2016 which was accepted by the Cabinet on 3-5-2017.

3. The Committee in its report came to the conclusion that in respect of pre-2016 pensioners, counting increments earned by the pensioner at retirement to fix the notional pay as recommended by 7th CPC would not be feasible mainly on the ground that the records, to determine such fixation, may not be available in all cases, although accepting that they are available in 82% of the cases. Instead the Committee recommended that a modified formula for re-fixing the notional pay in successive pay commissions would be more rational and revised pension based on this notional pay would provide parity in pension between pre and post 2016 pensioners.

4. When after 7 months, in July 2017, the Government issued concordance tables for revised pension for pre-2016 pensioners, the fallacy of the Committee's claim of parity having been achieved, came to light. What to speak of parity between pre and post 2016 pensioners, there is disparity in the proposed pension even among the homogenous group of pre 2016 pensioners, who get different pensions, depending on the date of their retirement from different Pay Commission periods, although all of them may have drawn the same number of increments.

5. It is obvious that the Committee has erred in its advice to the government by recommending a convoluted method in the name of a modified formulation and claiming that it gives the same parity as the straightforward method of counting increment recommended by the Commission.

Editor's Note : Sh. NP Mohan has raised a very important point in his above write-up. The modified formula proposed by the Committee and later accepted by the Govt. undermined the concept of parity as enshrined in the Option 1 recommended by the 7th CPC. RSCWS as well as other Pensioners Associations and JCM Staff Side opposed it strongly but the Govt. did not agree. This caused much frustration amongst the affected Pre 2016 Pensioners. Govt should reconsider the matter in the interest of justice and restore Option 1 of 6th CPC.

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