

Health minister's fund for cancer patients

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New Delhi: Health Minister's Cancer Patient Fund (HMCPF) has been established within Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi with a separate corpus fund of Rs 100 crore. The earnings from the Corpus Fund accruing out of interest are utilized for providing financial assistance to cancer patients, through 27 Regional Cancer Centres (RCC) located all over India.

Interest earned on corpus fund of HMCPF and the funds allocated under Health Minister's Discretionary Grants (HMDG) during 2014-2015 and 2015-16 was Rs 10.75 crore and Rs 9.70 crore respectively. The HMDG had Rs 2.50 crore in 2014-15 and Rs 3 crore in 2015.

The RAN has been set up for providing for financial assistance to patients, living below poverty line who are suffering from major life-threatening diseases, to receive medical treatment at any of the super specialty government hospitals/institutes. The financial assistance to such patients is released as a one-time grant, to the Medical Superintendent of the hospital in which the patient is receiving treatment. Financial powers have been delegated to the Medical Superintendents/Directors of some selected hospitals/institutes to sanction financial assistance up to Rs 2 lakh in each eligible case reporting for treatment in their respective Hospital/Institute and upto Rs 5 lakh in emergency cases.

The hospitals refer the cases to RAN Headquarters, where the amount of treatment exceeds Rs 2 lakh. Further, the government has launched “National Programmes for Prevention and Control of Cancer, Diabetes, Cardiovascular Diseases and Stroke (NCPDCS)” which is under implementation in all States/UTs for reducing burden of Non- Communicable diseases. From FY 2015-16 onwards, consolidated funds for NCD Programmes including NPCDCS are being released to States/UTs from NCD Flexipool by NHM. The programme covers patients affected with non-communicable diseases irrespective of the financial status of the patient.

The Government is accepting donations under HMCPF for the treatment of cancer patients. While there was no donation received during 2014-15, Rs 7.44 crore were received during 2015-16.