Order No: **296 (HSN)**

Ranchi, Dated: 02/..9../2020

ORDER

It has been brought to the notice that some private hospitals & transport services deployed in COVID-19 dead body management are charging exorbitant amount for transport of the dead bodies. The same is causing distress to the family members of the deceased person. It is pertinent to note here that, as per the MoHFW guidelines, *"There is unlikely to be an increased risk of COVID infection from a dead body to health workers or family members who follow standard precautions while handling body"* and also that, *"The body, secured in a body bag, exterior of which is decontaminated poses no additional risk to the staff transporting the dead body."* Further, as per the directions issued by letter no. 492/HS dated 4/8/2020 and letter no. 433/HS dated 1/7/2020, it has already been specified that in case the dead body is not claimed by the family member of the deceased the same shall be cremated within 24 hours by the district administration. It is also pertinent to specify here that, *Moksha Vaahan/ Shav Vaahan* for transportation of dead bodies have been provided to various Civil Surgeons and Medical Colleges and SoP regarding operation of the same has been issued vide letter no 1162(25) dated 17.06.2019 and further by letter no. 1569(25) dated 13.08.2019 by Director-in-Chief, Health services.In the light of the aforementioned facts, it is directed that: -

1. For transportation of dead body of a Covid positive person, the family members of the deceased may contact the Superintendent of the concerned medical college or the Civil Surgeon of the district concerned, as the case may be, who shall make available the *Moksha Vaahan*, meant for transportation of dead body as per the terms and conditions of the aforesaid letters and as per rules. The vehicle may be provided for transportation both within as well as outside the district.

2. In case the family members of the deceased Covid positive person do not claim the body, the same should be cremated as per the guidelines by the district administration within 24 hours as directed.

3. The Private/Govt. hospital, where the death of the patient occurred, shall store the body free of charge for up to 4 days from the time of death and storage charge thereafter shall be Rs 500 each day, until the family shall arrange for the transportation of the body.

4. In case the family of the deceased, after multiple attempts is not able to arrange for the transportation of the body and they do not wish to avail aforesaid facility of *Moksha Vaahan*, then the corresponding hospital administration shall help find a suitable transport vehicle except the emergency ambulance.

5. Maximum Charges that can be levied for such transport vehicle are:
   a. Service Charge: Rs 500

b. Cost of PPE for Driver: Rs 700 [Not to be charged if family of the deceased is providing a new PPE]
c. Cost of Sanitization of the Vehicle: Rs 200 [Concern Hospital will be responsible for sanitization of the vehicle]
d. For first 10 KM: Rs 500 (fixed)
e. Per KM transportation charge after first 10 KM: Rs 9/km
f. Distance shall be calculated for to and fro journey.

Respectful, dignified and sensitive attitude is needed towards the body &the family that is suffering a loss in these stressful times. Strict action will be taken against the violators and respective Civil Surgeons shall ensure implementation of this direction.

(Dr. Nitin Kulkarni)
Principal Secretary to Govt.

Ref. No.: 296 (HSN)
CC To:

Date: 02|9| 2020

1. Mission Director, NHM Jharkhand for kind information.
2. All DC, Jharkhand for kind information & necessary action.
3. All Civil Surgeons, Jharkhand for kind information & necessary action.
4. State Surveillance Officer for kind information & necessary action.
5. Superintendant, All Medical College, Jharkhand.
6. All Nodal officers of COVID-19 health facilities, Jharkhand for kind information & necessary action.

Principal Secretary to Govt.