

F No. Z-15015/4/2019-NHM-I
Government of India
Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
(National Health Mission)

Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi
Dated the 17th December, 2019

To

Shri. Manoj Kumar
Executive Director (NHM)
Pariwar Kalyan Bhawan
Sheikhpura Patna
Bihar - 800014

Subject: Request from the State for Inclusion of Homeopathy and Unani practitioners in Certificate Programme in Community Health (CPCH) - communication of stand - reg.

Please refer to your letter No. 5827, dated 9th November 2019 regarding inclusion of Homeopathy and Unani practitioners in Certificate Programme in Community Health (CPCH). In this regard, following are submitted for your reference.

Stand of the Ministry for GNM / B.Sc Nursing or B.Sc Community Health graduates and Ayurvedic Practitioners

MoHFW is of the stand that GNM / B.Sc Nursing graduates or Ayurvedic Practitioners or B.Sc in Community Health are to be enrolled for CPCH being offered by IGNOU or similar certificate course offered by State Health Universities and this is based on the recommendations of the Expert Group.

Nurses and Ayurvedic Practitioners are considered appropriate candidates for serving as CHOs as they not only have an in-depth knowledge of the human body through rigorous clinical experience and training but also a holistic understanding of public health, which is essential for them to deliver comprehensive primary health care.

As per the Sub-Section 4.1 of the Section 4 of *Ayushman Bharat: Comprehensive Primary Health Care through Health and Wellness Centres-Operational Guidelines*,

- a Community Health Officer (CHO) would be a BSc. in Community Health or a Nurse (GNM or B.SC) or an Ayurveda practitioner, trained and certified through IGNOU/other State Public Health/Medical Universities for a set of competencies in delivering public health and primary health care services.

Stand of the Ministry w.r.t inclusion of Homeopathic Practitioners

Review of the Homeopathic curriculum reveals that

- *there is limited focus on general surgical procedures, management of medical emergencies and training, critical for management of emergency cases including burns and trauma.*
- *Also it focuses only on Pharmacology of homoeopathic medicines and focus on pharmacology of allopathic medicines is completely missing.*

Hence, whenever request come for inclusion of Homeopathic Practitioners for CPCH course from States/UTs or Council or MPs or other organizations, the above stand is reiterated.

Stand of the Ministry w.r.t inclusion of Unani Practitioners

Based on request from J&K vide letter no. SHS/NHM/J&K/10672-77 dated 7th October 2017 for inclusion of Unani Practitioners in CPCH course, highlighting the dearth of BAMS graduates in the State, a task force was constituted on 15th January 2018, to review the feasibility of utilizing services of Unani Practitioners as CHOs in the State of J&K.

Task force recommended for inclusion of Unani Practitioners in CPCH course in the State of J&K, subject to;

- extending the training hours from 520 hours to 783 hours for covering additional topics with the remarks to implement training as per the specified duration for the next 2-3 batches and further,

- Fine-tune/modify, based on the experiences hence, obtained for the subsequent batches.

Subsequently, when the similar request is received from State of Maharashtra vide letter no. SHS/HWC/87212-214/2018 dated 28th December 2018 on the premises that they were facing issues in the availability of BAMS and Nursing graduates to meet the target for up-gradation of AB-HWCs and Unani Practitioners in the State have prescription rights, the State was allowed for including Unani practitioners in the CPCH course vide DO letter no. O-11011/01/2014-NHM-II (Pt-4) dated 21st January 2019.

Integration of CPCH Course into the B.Sc. Nursing Curriculum

In 2019, Indian Nursing Council in collaboration with the Ministry and NHSRC, after a rigorous review and comparison of the IGNOU curriculum with the B.Sc Nursing Curriculum concluded that the existing curriculum of B.Sc Nursing included most of the competencies needed to lead the primary health care team to provide the comprehensive primary health care at Sub Health Centre level AB-HWCs. The committee constituted for this purpose, recommended a set of skills be reinforced for all nursing candidates of the Four years B.Sc, Nursing Course, in the given 4 years period. This will ensure that the key skills and competencies of the 6 months CPCH course are integrated into the B.Sc Nursing curriculum. This has been communicated by INC to all State Nursing Councils.

- Secretary HFW has wrote to all the States/UTs vide Letter No.7(5)/2019/NHM-I dated 14.8.2019 requesting all the Principal Secretaries of Health of States/UTs to call a meeting of State Nursing Councils and ensure that all nursing colleges in the State are made aware of this new provisions and take necessary measures to enable reinforcement of the necessary skills in the curriculum so that candidates graduating in July 2020 are available to the States to be selected as CHOs directly without undergoing CPCH course, if they successfully pass an appropriate competency test. This will enable the scaling up of Sub Health Centres to AB-HWCs in the given time frame.