Dear Colleague,

You are aware that support is being provided under the National Health Mission for setting up dedicated MCH wings in States/UTs for providing comprehensive care to mother and child. Special Newborn Care Units (SNCUs) are already an integral part of these MCH wings. However, babies discharged from these SNCU may continue to be at risk of developing developmental delay leading to disability. Hence it is required to identify such children who require early intervention in the critical period of the first six years.

2. To minimize and prevent such disabilities, support is also being provided for “District Early Intervention Centers (DEIC)” under Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK) with facilities for Pediatric Physiotherapy, Pediatric Optometry, Speech Pathology, Pediatric Audiometry, Clinical pediatric psychology and various other specialities, which are required for young children. In order to provide a continuum of care as an extension of SNCU, these DEICs need to be integrated with the MCH wings of the district hospital, where facilities such as ante-natal, post-natal and Pediatric wards, Sick New Born Care Unit (SNCU), are already present. Functional and hence structural Linkage with SNCUs is imperative to initiate early identification and early management.

3. May I therefore request all States/UTs to ensure that the DEICs are integrated with MCH wings in the district hospital. MCH wings that are under construction may also be required to incorporate DEICs along with SNCUs. A revised outlay and engineering drawing of MCH wing integrating DEICs are enclosed for further action.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,

(Manoj Jhalani)

Encl: As above

All Principal secretary and Mission Directors of States/UTs