Notification for ABPMJAY-Empanelled Hospitals

Regarding mandatory COVID-19 testing of SARI patients

It is being communicated to all Ayushman Bharat - empanelled hospitals that the packages related to testing of COVID-19 patients have been made live in the TMS system.

Since, SARI (Severe Acute Respiratory Infection) patients may be requiring hospitalization, their COVID-19 testing is mandatory before treatment. SARI is acute respiratory infection with fever >=38 degree C and cough with onset within last 10 days; and requires hospitalization.

Hence, if an AB-PMJAY beneficiary requires hospitalization in your hospital for any of the following cases, **testing for COVID should mandatorily be carried out** (as per Office Memorandum of NHA-GoI S-12015/20/2020 – NHA (HN & QA) dated 13.04.2020):

- Pneumonia
- Severe Pneumonia
- Respiratory Failure due to any cause
- Type ½ Respiratory Failure
- Pyrexia of unknown origin
- Acute Febrile Illness
- Any other Emergency

Since a single COVID-19 positive case can easily spread to other patients, health workers and hospital staff, besides causing a rapid deceleration of the patient's health; it is in the best interest of both the hospital and the patient that COVID-19 positive patients are identified at the moment they enter the hospital, and sent to appropriate COVID facilities. Hence, testing is not only desirable but also mandatory for such patients.

Hence, the protocol to be followed for such patients is this:

- Assume a SARI patient (for one of the 6 cases mentioned above) as COVID-19 positive and perform an immediate test. For this purpose, '**Testing for COVID-19**' package in the TMS must be utilized.

- Till the time the test results come in the next 48 hours, isolate the patient in a different room with a dedicated health-worker (not doctor) in complete PPE suit.

- Till the time the test result come, the patient must be completely isolated with minimal people coming in his/her contact and with all precautionary measures.

- If the test result comes positive, 108 must be called and CMO office notified immediately for transportation of the patient to a dedicated COVID-facility. Once the patient leaves, entire room and the things in the room and in the passage

must be thoroughly sanitized to prevent spread of infection by touch or by soiled things.

- If the test result is negative, the treatment for the patient may be undertaken as necessary

As and when the GoUP will issue complementary instructions, the same will be communicated to you, and you are requested to include those instructions along with the aforementioned points during the pandemic. Your cooperation is appreciated.