

Government of Karnataka
Karnataka State AIDS Prevention Society
Department of Health and Family Welfare
Bangalore

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Press note:

Department of Health and Family Welfare, and Karnataka State AIDS Prevention Society is organizing an inauguration of 'Free travel facility for ART treatment', ID NAT testing facility at Government blood banks and launch of new regimen the HIV transmission from Mother to Child during pregnancy on 3rd January 2013 at K C General Hospital premises. Sri Aravind Limbavali, Hon'ble Minister for Health and Family Welfare will inaugurate the programme. Dr. C N Ashwathnarayan, MLA Malleshwaram constitution will be preside programme.

About Karnataka AIDS Prevention Society (KSAPS)

KSAPS has been implementing NACO supported prevention and care programmes for the vulnerable population and for people living with HIV/AIDS. The major intervention areas of KSAPS are prevention, treatment and care & support. The two main components are prevention programmes for high risk population and programmes for the general population.

Free Travel Facility for ART Treatment:

Government of Karnataka has announced, the amendment notification no is HFW/155/CGE/2012 Bangalore dated 06-07-2012 who are all under ART treatment of PLHIVs are eligible to get actual reimbursement of travelling allowances under this notification all the ART, Link ART and ART+ has to follow below mentioned rules .

- The reimbursement of travel allowance (TA) will be provide based on details already provided in ART register and the reimbursement will be paid 0.80/-Paisa per km.
- Person living in urban will be paid minimum of Rs. 20 (for one way), in case of TA is more than Rupees twenty and it will be paid as pre km basis.

- Maximum Rs. 100 will be paid to the people who are coming from out of the district.
- The TA reimbursement will be monitored by head of the ART centre/ Nodal medical officer.
- The chief medical officer will be monitored TA reimbursement at ART centre, link ART and ART+ centre.
- The TA reimbursement will be paid to the care takers who are coming with below 10 years of children and above 60 years.
- If OVC children's coming in a group for ART treatment, only one care taker eligible for TA reimbursement.
- The couple are in ART treatment & the person who is coming to get ART medicines from ART centre she / he is eligible to get TA reimbursement.
- The information will be displayed on the notice board about TA reimbursement in all ART, Link ART and ART+ centres.

ID NAT (Individual Donor Nucleic Acid Testing)

Every year Millions of people donate blood and this Blood is transfused to cancer patients, trauma Care patients and patients needing multiple transfusion mainly Thalessemic and Hemophilia patients.

India has a high prevalence of HIV, Hepatitis B & C and many patients who receive blood transfusion unknowingly get infected through blood transfusion. To avoid such transfusion transmitted Infection, Government of Karnataka, Department of Health & Family Welfare and Karnataka State AIDS Prevention Society (KSAPS) has decided to introduce ID NAT (Individual Donor Nucleic Acid Testing) facility.

ID NAT is an advanced Technology ensuring the safety of patients. ID NAT directly detects small amounts of virus of HIV, Hepatitis B & C much before the conventional tests which will prevent transfusion transmitted infection.

Keeping in mind safety of patients and safer transfusion to patients and reducing the risk of transmission of life threatening diseases like HIV, Hepatitis B & C, the Government of Karnataka in the first phase introduced ID NAT testing facility for 26 NACO assisted Blood

Banks in the state which will help in making available safest possible blood for its patients in the state. This facility will be extended to all the Blood Banks in the state in a phased manner, it is also decided to make it mandatory for private Blood Banks to issue ID NAT tested Blood so that all the patients receiving transfusion should be safe.

PPTCT:

The new guidelines of National AIDS Control Society (NACO) for Prevention of Parent-to-Child Transmission (PPTCT) of HIV will be formally launched in Karnataka in Bangalore on 03/01/2013. The programme will be launched by Hon'ble Health Minister for the State, Sri Arvind Limbavali. It is observed that though the rate of transmission from parent-to-child has come down considerably, NACO and WHO in India are aiming for zero transmission of HIV from parent-to-child by 2015. Under this goal, the new guidelines have been devised with the support of WHO.

The new guidelines seek to address this issue by linking Integrated Counselling and Testing Centers (ICTCs) of State AIDS Control Societies with NRHM health services. The grass-root level health functionaries in the State viz., the ANMs and ASHAs have been trained to collaboratively work with the counsellors of ICTCs, so as to effectively link an HIV infected pregnant mother up to the ART services for institutional deliveries, exclusive breast feeding for at least 6 months and continued feeding thereafter, and final confirmation of HIV status of the baby at 18 months which are some of the activities in the entire gamut of continuum of care services under PPTCT programme. Earlier the programme has been using single dose of Nevirapine that is given to mother-baby pairs during delivery. However, now a new effective regimen commencing from 14 weeks gestation itself been proposed to further reduce the transmission to 5% and less.

NACO has revised PPTCT technical guidelines in line with WHO recommendations and in the backdrop of the commitment to work towards "Elimination of Pediatric HIV by preventing mother-to-child transmission in keeping the mother and baby alive". Hence, with the launch of

new regimen the HIV transmission from Mother to Child during pregnancy, Delivery and Breast feeding reduces significantly.

More Info: Dr. Leela Sampige, Joint Director, IEC- KSAPS

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NOTE ON HIV RESPONSE IN KARNATAKA

Karnataka is one of four large states in South India with a relatively advanced HIV epidemic. As a part of the National AIDS Control Program (NACP) of the National AIDS Control Organization (NACO), Karnataka has been conducting the HIV Sentinel Surveillance since 1998 with the provisional prevalence for 2010 being 0.69% among general population. This is close to the NFHS-3 estimate of 0.69%. There is significant decline in adult HIV prevalence in the state - from 1.5% in 2003 and 2004 to less than 1% (0.69%) in 2010. Further, declining prevalence among women in the age group 15-24 probably indicates halting of new infections. More importantly, HIV positivity among the antenatal clinic (ANC) attendees has declined to 0.24% and among general clients to 4% as evidenced by data from in the Integrated Counseling and Testing Centres (ICTCs). However, HIV prevalence is 10 or more times higher among various high risk groups. Based on Surveillance data, given above, estimation of PLHIV in the state is 2.45 lakhs.

Rapid scale-up of Integrated Counseling and Testing Centres (ICTCs) has been undertaken during the past 3 years and Karnataka currently has a total of 1525 ICTC facilities spread across the State. The total general clients who have been tested in the above mentioned ICTCs (from April to October 2012) has been 6, 54,464 and out of which 20,642 people have been found positive (3.20% positivity rate). Total pregnant women tested for HIV (April – October 2012) is 4, 95,305 and out of which 1092 were found positive (0.22 positivity rate).

Every district of Karnataka has at least one Anti Retroviral Therapy (ART) centre. As of now there are 49 ART centers and 167 Link ART Centres functioning in the state. The cumulative number of HIV cases registered at ART Centres is 2, 32,761, out of which 85,605 are on Anti retroviral treatment. Out of this 39,950 are male, 39,888 are female and 149 are transgenders. Total children who are on ART are 5,618 (3214 male and 2404 female). By the end of 2012-13 the plan is to have 54 ART centres and 184 Link ART centres. There are 33 CD4 machines in the state at present with 8 more proposed.

Community Care Centres (CCCs), which primarily focuses on ART adherence and psycho-social support of PLHIVs and their families, is implemented through funding from Global Fund Round six. Presently 27 CCCs are functioning. In addition, there are 30 Drop In Centres (DICs), funded by KSAPS, for the benefit of People Living with HIV (PLHIV).

Prevention response from Karnataka State AIDS Prevention Society (KSAPS) has been to saturate the coverage of populations who are most at risk of acquiring and transmitting HIV. This saturation currently covers around 79169 FSWs, 25212 MSM and 1292 Transgender population through Targeted Interventions. KSAPS also covers 1597 IDUs in the city of Bangalore and Kolar along with 190,000 migrants and 60,000 long distance male truckers through targeted Interventions.

Karnataka has 12 districts under Link workers scheme which essentially focuses on HIV prevention and care and support in the rural areas.

In Karnataka the availability of safe Blood is ensured through a network of 171 Blood Banks. Out of 171 Blood Banks, 40 are in Government Sectors, 23 are Voluntary/Charitable sectors and 108 are in Private sector. In addition, there are 39 BCSUs (Blood Component Separation Units) in the state. The state also has 9 Blood Transportation vans, which provide the logistic support. The total collection of blood units during the year 2012 – 2013 (April-Oct) has been 3, 94,583 units with 65% as voluntary blood collection for the state. The State will continue to maintain a high proportion of voluntary blood collection with a

target to achieve voluntary blood collection as 100% by the end of the year 2012-13. The State expects to collect around 6, 00,000 units of blood and is committed to organize 4000 voluntary blood donation camps during the year 2012–13.

KSAPS undertakes various Mass and Mid media campaigns through radio and television programmes, by setting up of hoardings and bus and auto rickshaw panels, through folk troupe and door to door campaigning at high and vulnerable HIV prevalent talukas in the state. 732 Red Ribbon Clubs have been set up at colleges and there plans to set up around 1000 Red Ribbon Clubs more by the end of this year.

During the year 2011-12, KSAPS has launched 41 legal AIDS clinics in collaboration with Karnataka State Legal Services Authority (KLSA) in all Government supported ART centers across Karnataka. The Care Coordinators from the PLHIV DICs, Community Care Centers, and ART centers will form the contact points for the affected PLHIVs who will then forward these cases to the LSCs.

KSAPS is planning to forge a partnership with CREDAI to ensure that the construction workers in construction sites, who are mostly migrants and at risk of getting and spreading HIV infection, are exposed to HIV messages and information on a regular basis. The plan is to integrate HIV sessions in their daily safety messaging schedules.

Snapshot of Karnataka

- Adult HIV prevalence is 0.69%.
- Estimated no. of PLHIV in the state – 2,45,522
- The cumulative number of HIV cases registered at ART Centres - 2, 32,761.
- PLHIV on Anti retroviral treatment (ART) - 85,605 (39,950 are male, 39,888 are female and 149 are transgenders).
- Total children who are on ART are 5,618 (3214 male and 2404 female).
- Total no. of functioning ICTCs in state – 1525
- Total no. of blood banks in state – 171