

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH

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PROPOSAL FOR THE INCLUSION OF PORTABLE X-RAY MACHINE IN LEVEL 1 MEDICAL FACILITY

1. ISSUE PAPER THEME

Medical

2. SUMMARY / BACKGROUND / PREVIOUS HISTORY

Portable X-ray machines serve a critical function in mission areas by offering vital diagnostic services directly on-site, especially in remote or hard-to-reach locations. These devices facilitate timely medical assessment and treatment, thereby minimizing the need for patient transport and enhancing overall care delivery in field conditions.

Currently, trauma care protocols incorporate Point-of-Care (POC) X-ray as a critical diagnostic tool for the detection of major and minor fractures, identification of bullets or foreign bodies, and the evaluation of other potentially life-threatening conditions.

Within the framework of the Advanced Trauma Life Support (ATLS) protocol, chest and pelvic X-rays are especially important for the rapid identification and management of life-threatening injuries in trauma patients. These imaging studies are essential for assessing the severity of injuries and guiding immediate clinical interventions.

Despite their diagnostic significance, portable X-ray machine is not included in level-1 medical facilities as per the COE Manual – 2023.

3. DETAILED PROPOSAL

According to COE Manual 2023, Chapter 3 Annex C, Paragraph 20 (d), Level 1 medical facilities are defined as the first tier of medical support, providing primary health care as well as immediate life-saving and resuscitative services. Standard capabilities at this level typically include conducting routine sick parades and managing minor illnesses and injuries to enable personnel to return to duty. They also involve collecting casualties from the point of injury and performing limited triage. Additionally, Level 1 facilities are responsible for stabilizing patients and preparing them for evacuation. Evacuation is carried out to the next level of medical care or to an appropriate medical facility, depending on the nature and severity of the injuries sustained.

By considering the critical diagnostic value of portable X-ray machines, Bangladesh recommends to consider the inclusion of 1 x Portable X-ray machine in Level-1 medical facility in the COE manual as a special case. This addition would significantly enhance on-site diagnostic capabilities, particularly in remote or austere operational environments.

Moreover, the availability of a portable X-ray machine at the primary care level would strengthen recovery processes by enabling the early detection of injuries and conditions that may otherwise go unnoticed. Such capability is essential for timely clinical decision-making, reducing the risk of complications, and ensuring appropriate and effective medical evacuation when needed. Incorporating this equipment would directly contribute to safeguarding the health and operational readiness of deployed personnel, thereby reinforcing the mission's overall effectiveness and resilience.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

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5. PROPOSED 2026 COE MANUAL TEXT

Revise Chapter 3, Annex C, Appendix 4.1 Level 1 medical facility, pg 95, add the text in bold

The Contingent Owned Equipment (COE) Working Group may make an appropriate effort to include 1 x Portable X-ray machine with the proposed reimbursement rate in the next COE manual.

The financial details of the portable X-ray machine are described below:

GFMV \$ 46,052
Estimated Useful Life 05 years

Reimbursed under major equipment.