

INDIA

SUBDIVISION OF MAJOR EQUIPMENT IN RESPECT OF FIELD HOSPITALS

1. **ISSUE PAPER THEME.** Major Equipment

2. **SUMMARY/ BACKGROUND.**

(a) Hospitals in mission area are multispecialty health care providing facilities comprising of various departments and areas of patient care such as Accident & Emergency, Specialist OPD Complex, Pathology & Laboratory services, Radiology services, Intensive care Unit, Operation theatre complex, Patient wards, Pharmacy, ancillary services etc. Hospitals are required to deploy medical and dental facilities as per standards defined in Chapter 3, annex C of COE Manual 2020. However, all medical and dental facilities provided by the hospital have been considered as a single Medical and Dental equipment for the purpose of reimbursements. Deficiency/temporary non-serviceability of any one medical/dental equipment renders the complete medical module of the hospital unserviceable resulting in substantial loss of reimbursements. It is proposed that the reimbursements for hospitals should be equipment/ department specific wherein each equipment or department is treated as a separate module with separate reimbursement rates.

3. **DETAILED PROPOSAL.**

(a) It is possible that some of the medical/dental equipment/facility becomes temporarily non-functional for some duration without affecting routine patient care. This entails that deficiency of any one equipment in any one of the departments renders the entire medical module of the hospital non-functional and not eligible for reimbursements. However, ibid deficiency/non-functionality of a specific equipment neither affects medical/dental services provided by the hospital for other medical/dental departments nor affects overall medical/dental services provided by the hospital.

(b) The case pertaining to Level III Field Hospital provided by India in MONUSCO is highlighted as an instance to reinforce this issue. The Level III Hospital was deficient of mobile Digital X Ray machine with effect from Oct 2018. However, the hospital has continued functioning at optimal capacity and has displayed exceptional medical care standards during the COVID pandemic in 2019 & 2020. Despite no reduction in its routine patient load and additional responsibility of COVID care, no reimbursement has been received against the Medical Module from Oct 2018 to Dec 2021 due to deficiency of one digital mobile X ray machine. This has resulted in monthly loss of USD 35,547.29 in reimbursements to Level-III hospital for the said duration.

(c) Medical and dental equipment are cost intensive and therefore non reimbursement of all deployed medical and dental equipment for deficiency or non-serviceability of single/few medical/dental equipment is incorrect. Therefore, it is recommended that the reimbursements for hospitals should be department specific wherein each department/ facility is considered as a separate major equipment with

separate reimbursement rates. The module and equipment wise reimbursement rates be worked out by the COE WG and included in the COE Manual 2023.

(d) **Reference.** Chapter III Annex C of COE Manual 2020 and MOU of Level III Hosp, MONUSCO.

4. **PROPOSED MANUAL TEXT.**

PROPOSAL FOR INCLUSION OF SEPARATE REIMBURSEMENT RATES FOR EACH MEDICAL/DENTAL DEPARTMENT FIELDDED BY MEDICAL HOSPITALS IN COE MANUAL 2023 (AN ADDITIONAL PARAGRAPH TO BE INCLUDED IN CHAPTER 3, ANNEX C PAGE 71 OF COE MANUAL YEAR 2023)

[Reimbursements for hospitals will be department specific wherein each department/facility is treated as a separate major equipment with separate reimbursement rates. The detailed equipment wise reimbursement rates (as decided by the COE Working Group) prescribed in the COE Manual shall be followed].