

UHC Forward: Towards Universal Health Coverage

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Health management cadre in Chhattisgarh soon

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Health management cadre in Chhattisgarh soon

Country: India

(The Times of India) - RAIPUR: In a bid to provide better healthcare facilities and strengthen health coverage in state, Chhattisgarh government has hired a multinational private consulting agency, Price Waterhouse Coopers, for assessing creation of a new health system management cadre in state.

Talking to TOI, director, health services, Dr Kamalpreet Singh said the purpose of creation of the new cadre, devoted exclusively to management of medical services, is to improve functioning of the system by enhancing its efficacy, efficiency and effectiveness and ensure quality healthcare delivery for all. He said currently, there is no separate management cadre in the health department, and clinical people end up looking after non-clinical work along with their routine jobs. In the process they compromise with their own jobs.

He said the new cadre, comprising public health professionals with multi-disciplinary education, would be able to bifurcate clinical and non-clinical work and provide a system that works effectively. He said the health system managers would take over many of the administrative responsibilities in areas such as IT, finance, human resources, planning and communication that are currently being performed by medical personnel.

The consultancy agency will submit its report in next four months and after that implementation process will start. "It will take at least 9 months for creation of the cadre," said Dr Singh adding that they will also recommend qualification requirement for personnel to be hired.

The appointment of appropriately trained hospital managers at block and district level will surely improve managerial efficiency and also enable medical officers to concentrate on clinical activities.

The state government's decision is in tune with recommendations of Planning Commission's high-level expert group (HLEG) on universal health coverage (UHC), which has been mooted a national and state-level public health service cadre and a specialized state-level health systems management cadre on the lines of the existing civil services.

The HLEG's report states, "The creation of an All India Public Health Service Cadre that should be responsible for all public health functions starting at the block level and going up to the state and national level. This cadre should be supported by a state-level public health cadre. This would be akin to civil services, which provide for both all India and state-level officers."

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