

## UHC project: stakeholders discuss implementational plan

Experts are likely to meet every six weeks to take forward sweeping public health reforms in the country



The universal health coverage project that will ensure right to health to every citizen has been in the back burner due to differences between the country's apex planning body and health ministry over budgetary allocation. Photo: Priyank Parashar/Mint

**New Delhi:** After months of bickering, health ministry and Planning Commission officials met with stakeholders from private sector to discuss an implementational plan for the United Progressive Alliance's (UPA) ambitious universal health coverage (UHC) project. The UHC project—ensuring right to health to every citizen—has been in the back burner due to differences between the country's apex planning body and health ministry over budgetary allocation.

The brainstorming session saw stakeholders from private sector, government and civil society organizations coming together to discuss the operational plan for UHC. "This was an initial meeting to see how all stakeholders can participate in the ambitious project," said Naresh Trehan, chairman and managing director of Medanta Medicity. "The stakeholders discussed how to plug in the gaps in the current health system and build it up. We are looking at create successful models for pilot projects," he added. The experts are likely to meet every six weeks to take forward sweeping public health reforms in the country.

According to officials close to the development, audit and consulting firm KPMG has been asked to submit recommendations on developing a national framework for public-private partnerships in the health sector. Health secretary Keshav Desiraju declined to comment on the

subject.