



Medi VOCAL

Monthly Newsletter

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 7
JULY 2024



“HYPERBARIC OXYGEN THERAPY (HBOT) “IN OUR SURGICAL PRACTICE”

IMA Goa State Level C.M.E

Dr. Shivanand Bandekar – Chief Guest Dean, Goa Medical College

Dr. Rajesh Patil - Guest of Honor Medical Superintendent Goa Medical College

Venue: Daffodil Hall 2nd Floor Hotel Fortune Miramar Panjim Goa

IMA Goa State in association with IMA CQS Branch organized State level CME

Topic -“ Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy (HBOT) in our surgical practice“

Date-06/07/2024 Time: 5.30 pm onwards

Invited faculties : Dr. Shivanand Bandekar –Chief Guest, Dean Goa Medical College

Dr. Rajesh Patil -Guest of Honor Medical Superintendent, Prof. Dept of Surgery, GMC

Speakers & topic- Dr. Gagandeep Bhanot-Over view of Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy & Future

Dr. Yuri Dias Amborcar-HBOT in Plastic Surgery, Dr. Milind Deshpande -HBOT in Orthopedics

Dr. Azaz Ahmed -Can preventive hyperbaric oxygen therapy optimize surgical outcome.





Message by IMA President



Dear Colleagues,

GIMACON 2024 is calling! As Goa enjoys the peak of the monsoon season and ushers in the holy month of Shravan, we at IMA Goa State are thrilled to invite you to our much-anticipated annual academic and cultural extravaganza, GIMACON. This signature event, a highlight of the IMA year, is scheduled for October 5th and 6th, 2024, and will be hosted by the IMA Bicholim branch.

This year, we're stepping away from the traditional five-star settings and embracing the serene beauty of Betqui Mashel at the Big Bee Hall. True to its name, this venue can comfortably accommodate up to a thousand delegates and offers ample parking.

In a nod to tradition, we will not be holding pre-conference workshops or CME sessions this time. Instead, we're focusing on a captivating oration entitled "Past, Present, and Future of GI Cancers," delivered by Dr. Shailesh Shrikhande, Professor and Head of GI and HB Surgery at TMH Mumbai. Given the rising incidence of GI cancers in Goa, particularly colon cancer, this topic is highly relevant.

On the second day, our carefully curated guest lectures will reflect the latest developments in Medicine and Surgery. Aligned with our theme, "Be Kind to Your Mind." we are particularly excited about a special talk on "Parenting Challenges in the 21st Century" by Dr. Bhooshan Shukla, a distinguished Psychiatrist and Psychotherapist from Pune.

To top off the academic sessions, we have planned a soothing entertainment program and an exotic gala dinner featuring authentic Goan cuisine that promises to delight your taste buds.

Don't miss out on this opportunity! Register soon to take advantage of the early bird rates before fees increase after August 31, 2024.

We look forward to sharing a memorable experience with you.

Warm regards,

Dr. Sandesh Chodankar.



Message by Editor, Newsletter

"I am pleased to bring before you another issue of MediVocal, Monthly news letter !!, IMA Goa state has been focused on conducting activities in the interest of healthcare of citizens of state of Goa, Looking forward for your cooperation and support."

Dr. Medha Salkar



IMPORTANT MEETINGS**IMA GOA STATE PRESENTS MEMORANDUM**

IMA Goa State President Dr. Sandesh Chodankar presented a memorandum to Mr Kiren Rijju - Hon'ble Minister for Parliamentary Affairs.

Mr Sripad Naik-Member of Parliament [North Goa] & Minister of State for Power and Renewable energy.

Mr Sadanand Shet Tanawade- Member of Parliament Rajya Sabha [Goa] & State President BJP Goa in a function held on 27/07/2024 at Hotel Fidalgo Panaji.

“THE MEMORANDUM ENCOMPASSED THREE DEMANDS TO BE ADDRESSED ON AN URGENT BASIS BY THE GOVT.”

1) To enforce strict central law for violence against doctors.

2) To exempt doctors from Criminal Prosecution in cases of medical negligence without any proved criminal intent.

3) To withdraw the supreme court directives regarding uniform rate list across all the hospitals in India.

The function was also graced by other ministers and M.L.A.s of Goa legislative assembly.

Other members who represented IMA Goa State were

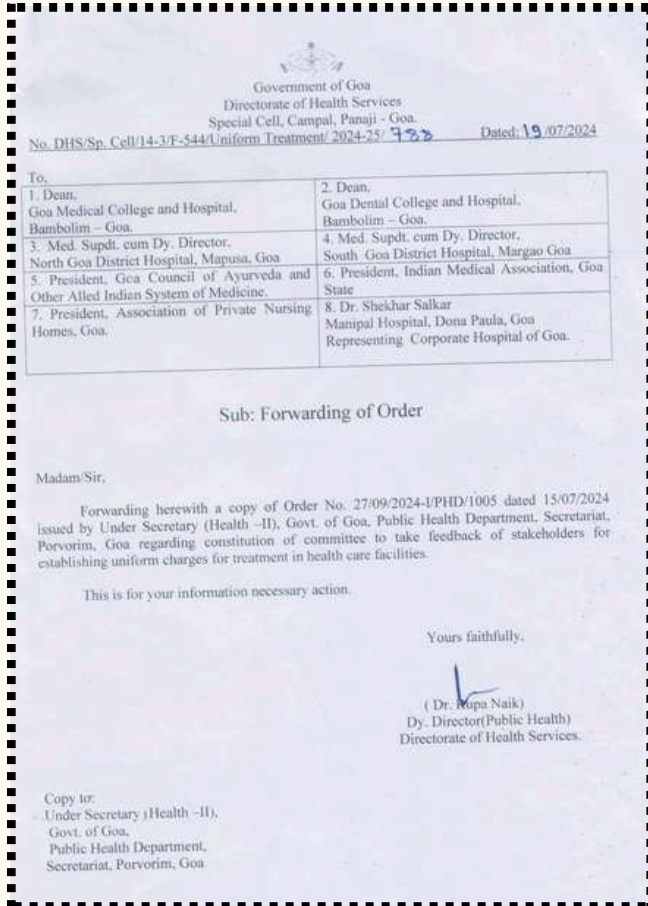
Dr Shekhar Salkar -IMA Bicholim President , Dr. Chandrakant Shetye–Hon'ble M.L.A.

Bicholim, Dr. Medha Salkar -Editor IMA newsletter, Dr.Kedar Padte-Senior IMA member



IMPORTANT MEETINGS

IMA Goa state members met Dr Rupa Naik, Director I/C DHS on 24th July 2024 to present a copy of referendum on the recent honorable supreme court judgement order to determine the rate of fee chargeable from the patients in terms of Rule 9 of the Clinical Establishment (Central Government) Rules, 2012.



IMA Goa state takes the opportunity to bring to your kind notice the recent honourable supreme court judgement order dated 27/02/2024 issued in W.P No 648/2020 in the matter of Veterans forum for transparency in Public Life vs Union of India.

The petitioner has prayed for a writ of mandamus directing the respondent to determine the rate of fee chargeable from the patients in terms of Rule 9 of the Clinical Establishment (Central Government) Rules, 2012.

Subsequent to the above developments the Goa State Government has taken cognizance of the above issue and constituted a special committee to take feedback from the stakeholders, IMA Goa state is an integral part of the committee and puts forward the following view on the topic.

9th July 2024 : IMA officials met Mr Subhash Phal Dessai, Minister Department of Social Welfare and Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) to discuss the issue of certification of children with disability to help them achieve hassle free medical certification.



IMA DMC FLOOD DISASTER MOCK DRILL

MOCKDRILL CONDUCTED BY IMA, DMC, GOA STATE WITH MPA, HOSPITAL ON 24/7/24 AT 4 PM.

First Flood Disaster Mock Drill was conducted by IMA, DMC, Goa State with MPA, Hospital on 24/7/24 at 4 pm.

The drill was conducted with active involvement of MPA hospital staff, MPA and Goa State Fire Departments, CISF Personnel of MPA and Goa Shipyard Limited.

The Goa IMA DMC team attended the drill as observers and Dr.Vallabh Dhaimondker was the chief observer.

The drill involved flood point, landing point and triage at higher ground level and casualty emergency treatment for red tag patients.

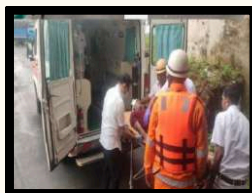
Emergency resuscitation, intubation and defibrillator application were actively demonstrated.200 members attended the drill.

This was followed by questions and answer session with the observers and refreshments.

This was followed by a meeting of all the Goa IMA, DMC Members on the further course of action for DMC in coming months in various DMC activities

Participants in the MockDrill conducted at MPAHon Wed 24th July 24.

1. Dr. Ravi Krishna CMO MPA & Chairman, Disaster Management Cell, IMA, Goa State.
2. Dr. Naresh Fadte, Medical Inspector of Factories and Member Secretary, IMA, DMC Goa.
3. Dr. Luis De Ataide, FMO, Deccan Chemicals & South Goa Coordinator
4. Dr. Ajit Vaidya, President, IMA, Mormugao and IMA Mormugao Representative to State DMC.
5. Dr. Smita Parsekar, Health Officer (HO), PHC Ponda and IMA Ponda, representative.
6. Dr. Roopchandra Mayekar , IMA Bicholim, Representative.
7. Dr.Kalpna Chodankar , AMO NIO
8. Dr.Vallabh Dhaimodker, Chief Observer and IMA Ponda member The team of doctors from MPA Hospital included- Dr.Gloria Dsilva, Anaesthetist, Dr.S.Redkar, Dy.CMO, Dr.Vidhya Sardesai, M.O and Dr.S avio Paes, A.M.O participated in the drill. Dr.Lyona coordinated the event.



There was an active participation from Fire department of Mormugao Port Authority and State Vasco Fire Department, CISF personnels of MPA and Goa Shipyard limited also.

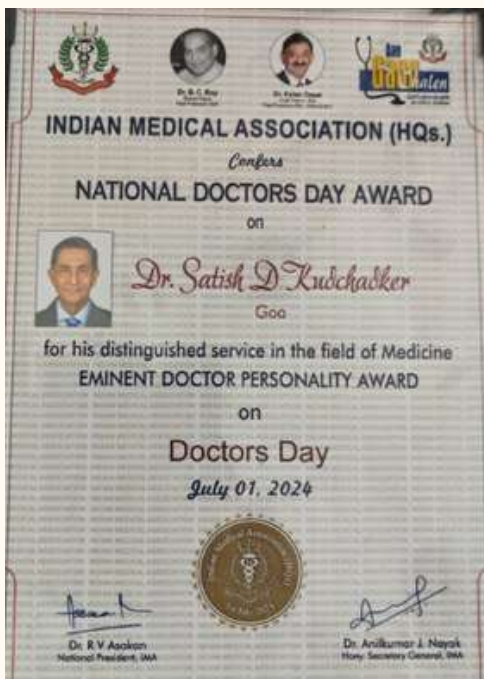


Glimpses

FELICITATION OF DR. LALANA BAKHALE – 21/07/24



Dr Satish Kudchadkar was bestowed with the “Eminent Doctor Personality award” of the Indian medical association (HQ) on the national Doctors Day for his distinguished service in the field of medicine on July 1st 2024 at the hands of Dr R V Ashokan National President of IMA



IMA BARDEZ

IMA Bardez organized interactive session on healthy Diet and lifestyle with nutritionist Luke Couthino for it members.

Date 7th July 2024.

Venue: Hotel Sai Kiran Mapusa.

80 members attended.



Venue – Hotel Green Park, Guirim.

Date 20th July 2024.

Speakers – Dr Sindhu Arjun
TOPIC- Uncontrolled DM and CKD.
1 CME point granted.
50 Members attended the CME.



DOCTORS DAY CELEBRATION

IMA BICHOLIM



Doctors Day celebrated on 1st July'24 at Lions Club hall , Bicholim.

Senior doctors -
Dr Umesh Dhume,
Dr Rajendra sakhardande,
Dr Pardeep Padwal
Dr P R A Caeiro,
Dr Stanley Viega

Felicitated at the hands of
Chief guest,
Dr. Chandrakant Shetye Hon.
MLA of Bicholim



Tree Plantation at Narayan Zantye College of Commerce on 16 July 2024.

Dr. Subodh Kansar was the Chief Guest.



EYE CHECK-UP CAMP

IMA BICHOLIM

I.M.A.Bicholim , Manipal Hospital and Ophthalmic Cell of D H.S. organized a camp at Noorani Masjid ,Kurti, Ponda on 7 July'24.

114 Patients were examined.

Free spectacles will be provided by Ophthalmic Cell, D H.S.



I.M.A.BICHOLIM, MANIPAL HOSPITAL and OPTHALMIC CELL OF D.H.S , along with LIONS CLUB OF BICHOLIM.

Organized Multi specialty Medical camp on 21 July 2024.

180 Patients were examined.



I.M.A. BICHOLIM organised C.M.E. on 28th July 2024.

**DIABETIC Foot Ulcers
Dr Dattaraj Budkule.**

**LIFESTYLE G.I.Disorders
Dr Sanjay Altekar.**



IMA PONDA

HEALTH TALK

HEALTH TALK BY DR. PURVA SAHAKARI.

IMA Ponda along with Rotary Club of Ponda New Generation conducted a Health talk on "Adolescent Health and Menstrual Hygiene" for the students of Sharada English High School Marcela Goa ON 1/7/2024.

Beneficiaries were 110 girls students of std 8th & 9th.

Talk was conducted by Dr. Purva Sahakari.

Dr. Rajdatta Timble, an alumini of the institution arranged the guidance for the students.

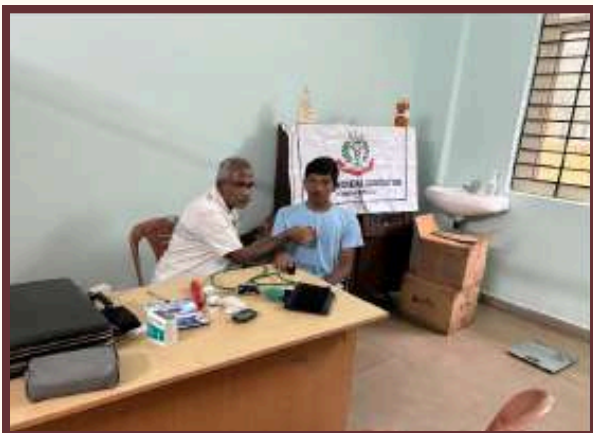


REGULAR HEALTH CHECK UP AT BALKALYAN ASHRAM TALAULI.

Dr. Ajay Pednekar examined 19 patients during Regular Health Check up on Sunday 7/7/2024.

RBSL & BP was checked in adult patients.

Free medicine samples were distributed to needy patients.



IMA PONDA

GENERAL CHECKUP

REGULAR HEALTH CHECK UP UNDER AAO GAON CHALE - 10/07/24.

Regular weekly health check up under Aao Gaon Chale project of IMA Ponda, Matruchaya Seva 25, IAP Goa & Adolescent Health Cell of IMA Goa State was held at Matruchaya Dhavli.

Dr. Purnima examined 20 children , of which 4 were adolescents, in addition checking of the reports of earlier 8 new admissions of adolescent girls.

Medicines were sponsored by Matruchaya & IMA Ponda Charitable Trust.



REGULAR WEEKLY HEALTH CHECK UP UNDER AAO GAON CHALE – 16/07/24

Regular health check up under Aao Gaon Chale project of IMA Ponda , Matruchaya Seva 25, IAP Goa & Adolescent Health Cell of IMA Goa State was held at Matruchaya Dhavli.

Dr. Purnima examined 18 children of which 5 were adolescents.

She gave tips of advice to the adolescent girls present, about self care during rainy season's infections & preventing the same from spreading to others around at Matruchaya & outside as in schools. She arranged to send iron medicines to adolescent girls with anaemia detected earlier & these girls have been transferred to Balikakalyan Ashram Talauli.



Medicines were sponsored by Matruchaya & IMA Ponda & the Charitable Trust.

IMA PONDA

REGULAR HEALTH CHECK UP BY DR. AJAY PEDNEKAR – 21/07/24.

Dr. Ajay Pednekar examined 14 patients during Regular Health Check up at Balkalyan Ashram Talauli on Sunday.

Free medicines donated by IMA Ponda Charitable Trust were distributed to the patients.



REGULAR CHECK UP UNDER AAO GAON CHALEN – 23/07/24.

Regular weekly health check up under Aao Gaon Chalen project of IMA Ponda, Matruchaya Seva 25, IAP Goa & Adolescent Health Cell of IMA Goa State was held at Matruchaya Dhavali.

Dr. Purnima examined 16 children of which 4 were adolescents, 4 babies & 8 toddlers.

Medicines were sponsored by Matruchaya & IMA Ponda & Charitable Trust.

BLOOD GROUP DETECTION CAMP BY DR. VALLABH DHAIMODKER – 31/07/24.

Dr. Vallabh Dhaimodker conducted Blood Group detection on 52 students of KG & High School sections of Shree Mahalasa Narayani School, Varunapuri, Mardol, Verna Goa on Wednesday



IMA PONDA

HEALTH CAMP

HEALTH CAMP – 28/07/24

Shree Nagesh Maharudra Arogya Seva Manch organized free health camp for senior citizens at Mayuresh Hall Nageshi Devasthan on Sunday. Camp was Inaugurated by Dr. Chandrakant Shetye, MLA Bicholim and Director Vision Hospital.

**Diabetes and Hypertension scenting done for 89.
Glycosulated Hb done for 19.**

**Eye check up done for 62 by Vision Hospital Team.
Dr. Sanat Bhatkar gave consultations for 19.**

Collaborating partners.

**IMA Ponda ,NAPCAIM Goa Chapter ,IMA Ponda Charitable Trust, Jesht
Nagarik Manch Porvorim ,Surajya Nyas ,
Dr. Vallabh Dhaimodker Foundation.**

**IMA Members -Dr. Suraj Kanekar ,Dr. Lalana Bakhale ,
Dr. Vandana Patankar ,Dr. Basavraj Patanshetti ,
Dr. Vallabh Dhaimodkar**

NAPCAIM Members -Dr. Natasha Dhuri ,Dr. Praneta Usgaonker



IMA PONDA

DOCTORS DAY

30/06/24 - DOCTORS DAY CELEBRATION-

IMA Ponda celebrated annual Doctors Day programme on Sunday at IMA House Ponda.

The chief Guest for the function was Dr. Chetan Patel, National DMC Chairman while the guest of honour was Dr. Sandesh Chodankar, IMA State President. Dr. Vinay Kamat, Dr. Ashok Amshekar & Dr. Pradeep Shinkre were felicitated for their service to medicine & the society. Rtn Santosh Shetye was also felicitated for his selfless social service which has helped Dilasa in many ways. MS Divya Pradeep Kumar Pandey, Ms Netra Prahlad Savaikar, Ms Yukta Shirish Mandurkar, Mast Gaurav Sandesh Madkaiker & Dr. Raj Borkar were also felicitated for their academic achievements. The programme was then followed by an entertainment programme organized by Dr. Ajay Pednekar which was enjoyed by all the doctors present.



“I request all IMA members to kindly register for GIMACON 2024 on or before 31st August 2024 to avail the early bird incentive”

-Dr. Shekhar Salkar, Organizing President, GIMACON 2024

Click on the registration Icon to fill the digital registration form



REGISTRATION

OCTOBER
2024
XXXVI



GIMACON

INDIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
GOA STATE BRANCH

5th and 6th October 2024

BIG Bee Banquet Halls, Savoi-Verem, Betqui, Goa



imagoastatesecretary@gmail.com

www.imagoa.in



INDIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION GOA STATE BRANCH

REGISTRATION NO. 33/GOA/98 (THE SOCIETIES REGISTRATION ACT, 1860)
IMA GOA OFFICE, HOUSE NO. 5-6, 2ND FLOOR, ASHIQUE SQUARE BUILDING
OPPOSITE PWD OFFICE, ST INEZ, PANAJI GOA, 403001



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8668331655

IMM PAST PRESIDENT

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9822747467

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EDITOR IMA NEWS

Dr. Medha Salkar

EDITOR IMA WEBSITE

Dr. Anil Mehndiratta

Date- 27/07/2024

Ref: IMA/PR/0124/34

Memorandum letter submitted to
government officials

To,

Shri Kiren Rijiju
Union Minister of Parliamentary Affairs of India
Government of India.

Subject: "Referendum by IMA Goa state on establishing uniform charges for treatment in healthcare facilities"

Honourable Sir,

Your significant reforms to the Indian legal system, has enabled the judiciary more accessible and efficient.

IMA Goa state takes the opportunity to bring to your kind notice the recent honourable supreme court judgement order dated 27/02/2024 issued in W.P No 648/2020 in the matter of Veterans forum for transparency in Public Life vs Union of India.

The petitioner has prayed for a writ of mandamus directing the respondent to determine the rate of fee chargeable from the patients in terms of Rule 9 of the Clinical Establishment (Central Government) Rules, 2012.

Subsequent to the above developments the Goa State Government has taken cognizance of the above issue and constituted a special committee to take feedback from the stakeholders, IMA Goa state is an integral part of the committee and puts forward the following view on the topic.

In the interest the general public and healthcare sector of the state we request you to kindly intervene and provide your able guidance to resolve the above issue at the earliest.

Indian Medical Association, Goa State is committed to strengthening healthcare services in the state and country, with respect to the recent ongoing deliberation on uniform charges for treatment in healthcare facilities, IMA Goa state has issued this document.

-Dr Sandesh Chodankar, President IMA Goa State

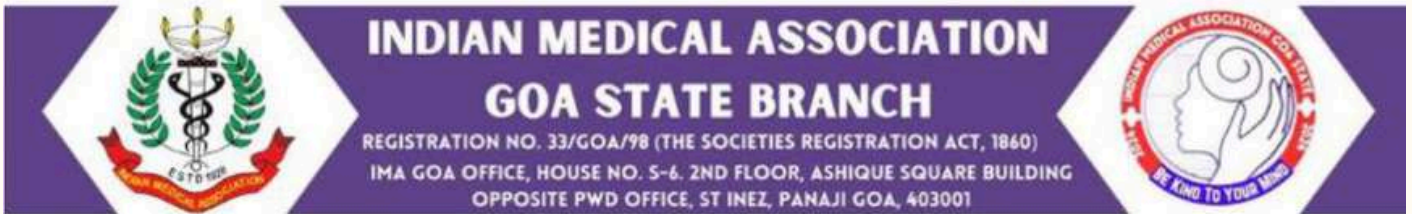


Email- imagoastatesecretary@gmail.com



imagoastatesecretary@gmail.com

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Uniform rates for healthcare throughout India ?

Arguments against uniform rates throughout India can be analysed under various headings

JUDICIAL DECISIONS

I think question about uniformity of rates for healthcare services throughout India has been addressed and answered by highest court of land on multiple occasions. We just need to revisit the same to answer the question posed in the title.

- 1) The Hon'ble Supreme Court in the Kunal Shah's Case (Balram Prasad vs Kunal Saha & Ors on 24 October, 2013 CIVIL APPEAL NO.2867 OF 2012) very clearly mentioned that there were problems with using a strait-jacket formula for determining the quantum of compensation. It noted the problem in the following words:

"This Court is sceptical about using a strait jacket multiplier method for determining the quantum of compensation in medical negligence claims. On the contrary, this Court mentions various instances where the Court chose to deviate from the standard multiplier method to avoid over- compensation and also relied upon the quantum of multiplicand to choose the appropriate multiplier ... this Court requires to determine just, fair and reasonable compensation on the basis of the income that was being earned by the deceased at the time of her death and other related claims on account of death of the wife of the claimant..."

Inference that can be drawn from this judgement is that all patients are not equal as far as payment of compensation is concerned. In that scenario how come they can be equal at the time of payment to the hospital? person who earns more income will avail of higher category of accommodation and hence will pay higher amount for same services. Healthcare establishment which caters to high earning class of patients will have to spend more on indemnity insurance expenses and hence will have to charge proportionately more from the patients. Thus if honourable court itself allows differential compensation and hence indirectly differential charging for different sets of patients within one hospital, where is the question of uniform rates throughout India?

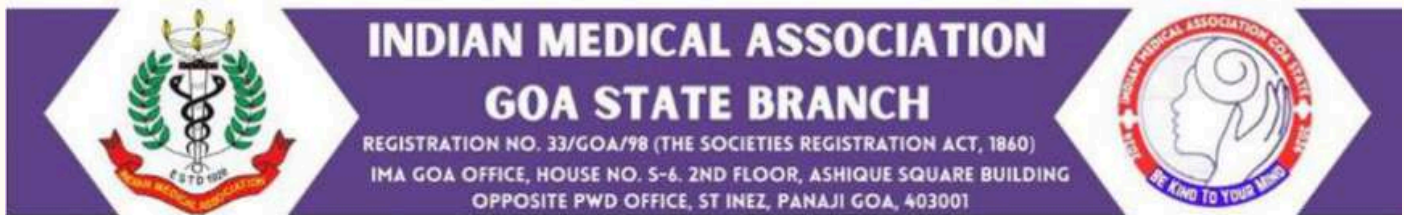
2. It is worthwhile visiting another landmark judgement in IMA v/s V.P. Shantha case judgement delivered on 13/11/1995. Honourable Supreme court mentions

"The third category of doctors and hospitals do provide free service to some of the patients belonging to the poor class but the bulk of the service is rendered to the patients on payment basis. The expenses incurred for providing free service are met out of the income from the service rendered to the paying patients. The service rendered by such doctors and hospitals to paying patients undoubtedly fall within the ambit of Section 2(1) (o) of the Act.

The question for our consideration is whether the service rendered to patients free of charge by the doctors and hospitals in category (iii) is excluded by virtue of the exclusionary clause in Section 2(1) (o) of the Act. In our opinion the question has to be answered in the negative."

Inference that can be drawn from this judgement is that Supreme court is recognizing differential charging pattern within same hospital. Not just that, it holds doctor equally responsible to pay damages in case of medical mishap to a patient, who was treated free of cost to begin with. It expects healthcare establishment to make provisions for this out of charges for paying patients. How one hospital which has free/ charity wing can be expected to charge same fees as one without such charity wing ?





3. Another case worth visiting is Dr Indu Sharma v/s Indraprastha Hospital on 22 April, 2015 , order delivered by NATIONAL CONSUMER DISPUTES REDRESSAL COMMISSION NEW DELHI

“The corporate hospitals and Specialists, as might be expected, must perform at a higher level than other hospitals/ general practitioners. They, after all, represent themselves as possessing highest standard facilities and care; also possess superior skills and additional training. The hospital charges and the doctor's fees normally reflect this. No doubt that the compensation in medical negligence cases has to be just and adequate, that the medical professionals need to be accountable to a certain degree.”

”The higher the level of hospital had specialised facilities and specialist doctors available and also the cost of treatment will be higher, thus the level of expectation of the patient certainly will be high”

The text of the order itself is self-explanatory.

GOVERNMENT APPROVED RATES

Rates stipulated by Ministry of Health and Family welfare under Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) also differentiates between NABH and Non-NABH hospitals, thereby acknowledging that the quality of service and safety is different in NABH accredited hospitals and Non-NABH hospitals and different rates are to be paid for same service in 2 types of hospitals.

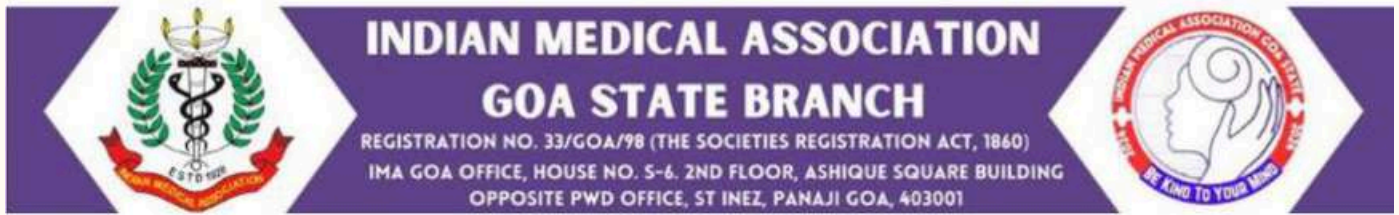
Application of different rates to different states and different rates to various areas in same state is also an indicator that cost of healthcare delivery is not same countrywide.

TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCEMENTS

Technology comes at a cost. With the help of advanced technology, hospital stay is reduced, patient comfort is improved and patient safety has improved but cost has increased. Same surgery carried out laproscopically will add instrumentation cost. Add Robotics to it and cost shall go up further. All these options are available to affording patients. Poor patient can still go ahead with conventional surgery. It is absolutely correct that all healthcare facilities should be equally available to all irrespective of paying capacity but the onus lies on the government to provide same. Private sector can't be held responsible to provide the same.

Making uniform rates throughout country without paying heed to availability of technological advances will be great disservice to the nation. It will be like pulling back the country back by a century.





WHOSE RESPONSIBILITY IS IT TO PROVIDE AFFORDABLE HEALTHCARE?

Providing affordable healthcare to poorest of poor is duty of state.

Reason provided behind uniform rates is to make affordable healthcare accessible to all. It shall be responsibility of the state to provide the same.

State can venture into Public Private partnership or some other modality can be worked out to achieve the same but cutting down the cost of private sector cannot be definitely the way out.

It was with great sense of responsibility that many of the hospitals participated in PradhanMantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY) in spite of the fact that rates provided were loss making. Government on it's part is trying to expand the scope of PM-JAY by first including central Government employees and now senior citizens. Only way private hospitals can continue to participate in the scheme is if allowed to charge other patients at appropriate rates. If The rates for other patients are capped under these regulations, the Scheme providing free healthcare to BPL and senior citizens will be severely affected.

HEALTHCARE AS AN INDUSTRY

If government wants private sector to participate in equitable accessible healthcare, all necessary steps should be taken to ensure that all basic infrastructure is provided to the healthcare industry at minimal rates.

When healthcare industry has to buy land at commercial rates, pay all necessary fees on par with polluting industries, pay water charges at commercial rates, pay electricity tariff at commercial rates , how can we afford to provide services at government rates?

We know that all rates mentioned above vary from place to place even in same city. How can we think of uniform rates throughout the country?

All industries work on expenditure + profit margin basis. How come medicine be included under privileged category of "Noble Profession" when for all other purposes it is equated with highly polluting industry?

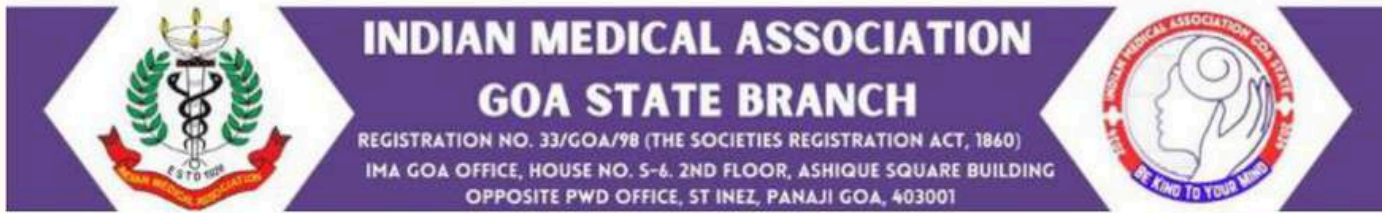
HEALTHCARE AS A PROFESSION

Like any other professional, A Doctor shall have freedom to charge his fees commiserate with his skill, talent and experience. Denying him this right, when all other professionals have it, will be trampling on his right to equality envisaged by constitution.

We would not like to compare, but are any other professional rates capped ? is a lawyer or an architect free to charge his rates?

Government has put up an excellent scheme to provide free legal aid to needy in form of legal aid cells in every state





EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE

When we are discussing issue of rates for medical services, another issue which needs urgent attention should also be sorted out by Supreme Court. Medical Council Of India ethics guidelines 2002 stipulate and also confirmed by Honourable Supreme Court in it's judgement in Pt Paramanand Katara v/s Union of India case that Medical Practitioner is bound to provide first aid to any patient brought in emergency and stabilise the patient before shifting to appropriate centre.

Stabilizing a emergency patient many a times means a costly procedure or surgery. Example : Myocardial Infarction patient will stabilize only with Angioplasty, Pregnant patient with imminent delivery will stabilize only with delivery, an ectopic pregnancy will stabilize only after surgery, an splenic rupture will stabilize only with splenectomy and so on and so forth.

What about payment in such cases? Patient expresses inability to pay after the treatment is carried out. Government should establish a fund for the purpose and directive should have come from Supreme court along with above judgement. But better late than never. Now that issue of rates is being discussed, this is right time to correct the deficiency left.

IS THERE A SOLUTION?

- Solution to entire problem of varying rates lies in Clinical Establishment Act itself, which has been cited by the petitioner in the present case.
- What Central Clinical Establishment Act Stipulates is range of tariff to be decided by individual states with consideration to local conditions and display of these rates at each Clinical Establishment.
- Each State should ensure that every clinical establishment shall display such tariff list for information to patients. Of Course, such pre-fixed charges may not be feasible for some surgeries, in which case a range can be provided. Such cases are not going to be many and prior information to the patient and proceeding with their consent should be way forward.
- All said and done, it will be better if supreme court lays down modalities of information of rates to patient prior to surgery rather than fixing the rates itself.
- Capping of fees will lead to poor quality services, hinder professional growth of doctors, no doctor will take effort to depend on his own skill development through trainings etc and definitely will lower the morale.
- There should be transparency in price list from hospital side for the convenience of the patient.
- Patients should be counselled thoroughly before the treatment regarding financial part and billing , enabling patient can make opt for or reject the treatment.

Finally we would like to conclude that, through all these effort there is an attempt to make conditions favourable for patients, but in long run patients will be at the most unfavourable situation.

Dr Sandesh Chodankar, **President**, IMA Goa State

