



**GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA**

No: DHS/PS/04/2021/KPME

Karnataka Government Secretariat,  
Vikasa Soudha,  
Bengaluru, Dated:22-4-2021

Notification

Sub: Establishment of STEP-DOWN Hospitals by private medical Establishments in collaboration with Hotels/staying Facilities.

Whereas, the State of Karnataka is witnessing rapid surge in Covid-19 cases during the past weeks, and vide Circular Commissioner-HFW NO: DHS/PS/77/20-21 Date: 9.07.2020 the Government had instructed to set up 3 tier systems for care of Covid-19 patients (CCC, DCHC and DCH) for mild moderate and severe cases respectively but the rapid surge of cases calls for a system of optimum bed utilization along with increasing the number of beds in different categories.

Whereas, the government is satisfied after detailed discussions held with experts that State is threatened with spread of Covid-19, which entails the Government to take appropriate, effective and monitored measures for managing Covid-19 patients to reduce the morbidity and mortality.

Therefore, in exercise of the powers, conferred under Section 4 of Epidemic diseases Act 2020, read with Section 11 of Karnataka Private Medical Establishment Act 2007, the following STEP-DOWN Hospitals are proposed to be set up to manage the moderate category of Covid-19 patients.

1.1 The private medical establishments which are registered under KPME (Karnataka Private Medical Establishments Act) will be allowed to establish and manage STEP-DOWN Hospitals for COVID-19 positive persons (after triaging in the hospital) in collaboration with hotels/staying facilities.

1.2 Hospital should inform number of beds arrangement made in the hotel to the concerned District health and family welfare/Chief Health Officer-BBMP through a letter/e-mail. This is the responsibility of the private medical establishment.

1.3 This arrangement shall be the responsibility of private medical establishment and hotel/ staying facilities.

1.4 The liability of running the center would be the on the registered KPME institution.

1.5 The responsibility of these centers would be to take care of the patients who shall be closely monitored, administered prescribed medications, conducting necessary investigations and supportive oxygen supplementation.

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2. The private medical establishments shall ensure the compliance of the following:

2.1 Guidelines from Government of Karnataka regarding establishing and managing STEP-DOWN Hospitals issued from time to time shall be strictly followed (annexure-1)

2.2 Ensure that only eligible COVID positive persons are admitted to STEP-DOWN Hospitals after triaging, with due information to district/BBMP health authorities

2.3 Ensure that Fire safety protocols as per Central Fire Safety Guidelines are maintained.

2.4 Ensure the availability of medical staff at facility and tele-monitoring as per guidelines

2.5 Following shall be ensured in the management and monitoring of Covid-19 positive persons.

2.5.1 Standard treatment protocol shall be followed.

2.5.2 Adequate availability of all medical supplies.

2.4.3 Adequate training of STEP-DOWN Hospitals staff on infection, prevention protocols

2.5.4 Provision of appropriate diet and ancillary services.

2.5.5 Bio-medical waste disposal as per CPCB guidelines

2.5.6 Discharge protocols as per GOI & GOK discharge policy.

2.5.7 Ensure to enter details of STEP-DOWN Hospitals viz., infrastructure and patients (admitted/discharged) in the software application provided by the state government for monitoring the movement of patients

2.5.8 It shall be ensured that 24X7 ambulance service is readily available to shift patients whenever necessary

2.5.9 All charges of STEP-DOWN Hospitals (Category wise package rates) shall be displayed and communicated to the COVID positive person well in advance and there shall be no scope for any conflict in this regard. The maximum ceiling limit for the charges is as follows:

Sl. No.	Type of Hotel	Per day maximum Ceiling
1	Economy/ Budget	Rs: 8,000
2	3-Star	Rs: 10,000
3	5-Star	Rs: 12,000



3. A three tier approach is recommended:

3.1. The hotel staff like cooks, back office, admins etc. shall not come in contact with Covid-19 positive persons.

3.2 The food delivery personnel and others shall serve Covid-19 positive persons in the rooms under strict supervision and care.

3.3 Medical and health staff shall monitor health condition of Covid-19 positive persons thrice daily and shall be available round the clock (24X7)

4. The private medical establishment shall ensure daily reporting to District Surveillance officer (DSO) of the District and BBMP regarding number of persons admitted, discharged, referred and their health status.

  
(Jawaid Akhtar)

**Additional Chief Secretary,  
Health and Family Welfare Department**

**Copy To:**

1. The Chief Commissioner, BBMP, Bengaluru.
2. The Commissioner, Department of Health and Family Welfare, Bengaluru.
3. The Mission Director, NHM Bengaluru.
4. The Special Commissioner, BBMP, Bengaluru.
5. All the Deputy Commissioners in the State of Karnataka.
6. The Director, Department of Health and Family Welfare, Bengaluru.
7. The Director, Department of Medical Education, Bengaluru.
8. The President, IMA/IAP/PHANA, Karnataka.
9. The President, Hotel Association of Karnataka.

**Copy for information to:**

1. Chief Secretary, Government of Karnataka Bengaluru.
2. PS to Health and Medical Education, Minister, Bengaluru.
3. The Principal Secretary to Government, Medical Education Department, Bengaluru.

## **Annexure-1**

### **STEP-DOWN Hospitals**

STEP-DOWN Hospitals will be set-up to optimize bed-status in the wake of acute surge in cases. Aim of these centers would be to care for the patients who will be closely monitored, administered prescribed medications, conducting necessary investigations and supportive oxygen supplementation.

#### **Model of STEP-DOWN Hospitals:**

It is advised that the place identified as STEP-DOWN Hospitals is in close vicinity (within 500mts) of an existing hospital caring for COVID 19 patients. STEP-DOWN Hospitals could be any Economy/Budge, 3-star to 5-star hotels with adequate personnel to assist in care of the patients.

#### **Entry/reception Area:**

- 1) Separate entry and exit pathways.
- 2) Wheelchair and stretchers at entry area
- 3) Access to lifts from entry area. Lifts to accommodate wheelchair and stretcher.
- 4) Nursing Aids and a qualified Nurse at the entry area to assist the patients.
- 5) Secure donning and doffing areas for all the personnel working at STEP-DOWN Hospitals.
- 6) Desirable to have a ramp for wheelchair and stretcher.
- 7) Triage area to be identified. This area should have a nurse and doctor stationed. Brief assessment of patients will be done in this area, with charting of temperature, SpO2, blood pressure, heart rate and respiratory rate. Doctor will briefly assess the general condition of the patient to ascertain the suitability of admission into STEP-DOWN Hospitals.
- 8) CRASH-CART with appropriate inventory laid out by hub-hospital protocol to be present at triage area.
- 9) Identified personnel to co-ordinate the bed/room allocation for a patient.
- 10) Patient to be escorted by nursing-aid to the respective assigned room.

#### **Admission criteria to STEP-DOWN Hospitals.**

- 1) Patient has to be RT-PCR Covid-19 positive
- 2) Patient must be symptomatic with any of the following symptoms ~ recurring fever > 100F, extreme fatigue, cough and short of breath on exertion maintaining SpO2 > 94%
- 3) Abnormal inflammatory markers (LDH, ferritin, lymphopenia, C-RP, d-dimer)
- 4) CXR or HRCT showing ground glass opacities.
- 5) Patient has to be referred from the hospital connected to STEP-DOWN Hospitals after evaluation and appropriately triaged by a trained doctor.
- 6) Patient should have had routine investigations as per State protocol
- 7) Treatment prescription has to be issued by the doctor referring the patient to STEP-DOWN Hospitals.
- 8) Patients convalescing and having stabilized in a hospital from COVID can be discharged to STEP-DOWN Hospitals for the ongoing care and monitoring. Discharge from such hospital will be at the

discretion of a physician caring for such patients and deemed stable enough to be transferred to STEP-DOWN Hospitals.

#### **Staffing of STEP-DOWN Hospitals:**

- 1) One doctor for 50 patients on call
- 2) One nurse for 10 patients stationed to monitor and administer medications
- 3) One nursing aid to assist each nurse
- 4) One physiotherapist to encourage periodic breathing exercises for all the patients mandatorily.
- 5) Psychologist on call from the hub hospital to address to any counselling needs of the patients
- 6) One personnel to monitor inventory of medications, consumables, oxygen cylinders and oxygenators.
- 7) House-keeping staff to be guided by nursing staff on cleaning etiquette of COVID areas.
- 8) One ambulance with round-the-clock driver to move to and from the hub hospital.
- 9) Dedicated vehicle to transport the nurses and ancillary staff to their residing places at odd hours of their duty shifts.

#### **Catering Services**

- 1) The Food should be provided to the patients at their bedside, at appropriate times, maintaining Covid-19 appropriate behavior at all times.
- 2) Web based ordering system to be promoted and is advised.

#### **Biomedical Waste Disposal**

- 1) The Hospital which is attached to the hotel to be responsible to manage the biomedical waste that is generated at the STEP-DOWN Hospitals. The Regular BMW disposal Procedures to be followed.
- 2) Standard SOP's of waste segregation adopted in hub hospital to be implemented at STEP-DOWN Hospitals

#### **SOP (Standard Operating Procedure) of patient care**

- 1) Vitals (Temperature, heart rate, respiratory rate, blood pressure, SpO2, 6minute walk test) will be conducted 8hrly to all the patients.
- 2) General condition of the patient will be assessed by the nurse 8<sup>th</sup> hourly.
- 3) WhatsApp video call will be made to all the patients by a doctor to address their health symptoms.
- 4) Doctor will visit the patient if need arises as indicated by an attending nurse or as deemed appropriate by the doctor.
- 5) Doctor on call will be available for 24 hours on all days to attend to any inadvertent emergency.
- 6) Medication as per the prescription will be dispensed and followed up by the attending nurse.
- 7) Any investigations ordered by the attending doctor will be duly done by the nurse and the samples will be sent to the hub hospital attached to STEP-DOWN Hospitals.
- 8) Regular long-term medications of the patients to be continued and monitored by the nurse.

- 9) Inadvertent situation where patient needs to be transferred from STEP-DOWN Hospitals to the hub hospital, pre-requisite arrangements has to be made by the hub hospital to accommodate the patient in the hospital for the ongoing care.

**List of Consumables and medications at STEP-DOWN Hospitals**

Consumable	Medicine	Others
	Inj Adrenalin	Long Register
High Concentration Mask	Inj Atropin	I V Stand
Oxygen Mask	Inj Avil	BMW Containers
Nasal Prongs	Inj Hydrocort	A4 sheet
Glucometer	Inj Lasix 20mg	Lab Box
Lancet	Inj Malidense	Oxygen Cylinder with Flowmeter
Glucostrip	25%Dextrose 100ml	Patient Bed
Cotton Roll	IVF DNS ml	Air Bed
Alcohol Swab	IVF NS 500 ml	DVT Pumps
Coveroll	IVF RL 500 ml	Infusion Pumps
Pick & Pack	IVF NS 100 ml	CHAIRS
Shoe cover	Tab Dolo 650mg	TABLE
Head Cap	Inj Emeset 4mg	COMPUTERS
Face Shield	Inj Pantodac 40mg	PATIENT FILE FOLDER
N 95 mask	Tab Montair 10mg	Cardiac Monitors or Pulse Oxymetry
Surgical Mask	Spirit 500ml	Wheel Chairs
Unsterile Gloves	Betadine 500 ml	Trolley
Scissor	Fosiflush	Patient Trolley
Powder Free gloves sterile	Heparin	Covid Phone/Land Line
Pulse Oxymeter		Patient Diaz
BP Apparatus Digital		Medication Diaz
Digital Thermometer		Cardiac Table
Handrub 100 ml		oxygen Flow Metere
Handrub 500 ml		Sharp Disposable Containers
Virkon Powder		Syringe Pumps
Sodium Hypochloride		
Inj Tray Steel		
Kidney Tray Plastic		
Vacutainer Blue		
Vacutainer Red		
Vacutainer Yellow		
Syringes 10 ml		
Syringes 5 ml		
Syringes 2 ml		
Insulin Syringe 40cc		

Spiro Metry		
IV Cannulas		
IV SET		
Infusion set		
Dura Pore/Micro Pore		

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