

Tele: 011-25682870
Mil: 36833

Central Organisation, ECHS
Integrated HQ of MoD (Army)
Adjutant General's Branch
Thimayya Marg,
Near Gopinath Circle
Delhi Cantt – 110010

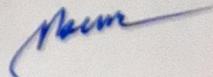
B/49774/AG/ECHS/2025

12 Mar 2025

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All Regional Centre ECHS

ADVISORY: REFERRAL PROCESS IN ECHS

1. Refer to CO ECHS letter No. B/49769/AG/ECHS dt 04 Oct 2024.
2. It is observed that, special provision w.r.t veterans aged 70 years and above are being misinterpreted by emp hospital leading to harassment to beneficiaries.
3. As per Para 2 (c), beneficiary can avail all listed investigations (Including CT Scan, MRI Scan, PET Scan or any other investigation above INR 3,000/-) on a single referral (No separate referral for CT Scan, MRI Scan, PET Scan or any other listed investigation costing above INR 3,000/- is required) if prescribed by the a concerned specialist or specialist of a service hospital or an emp hospital which are genuinely indicated and absolutely necessary.
4. It is clarified that beneficiaries 70 years and above can directly avail OPD consultation and listed procedures/ investigations at any emp hospitals without any referral from polyclinic. There is no requirement of taking any referral from polyclinic for listed investigations costing INR 3,000/- and above. All listed investigations (Including CT Scan, MRI Scan, PET Scan or any other investigation above INR 3,000/-) can be carried out with prescription from super specialist or specialist of an emp hospital without referral from polyclinic provided investigations are absolutely necessary and justified.
5. This is for your info and necessary action please.


(Sri Kant Kumar)
Lt Col
Jt Dir (Med)
for MD ECHS

Encl:- As Above

Tele 25683476
Mil:36833

Central Organisation, ECHS
Adjutant Generals Branch
Integrated Headquarters
Ministry of Defence (Army)
Thimayya Marg
Near Gopinath Circle
Delhi Cantt -110010

B/49769/AG/ECHS

04 Oct 2024

IHQ of MoD (Navy)/Dir ECHS (N)
DAV, Subroto Park
HQ Southern Command (A/ECHS)
HQ Eastern Command (A/ECHS)
HQ Western Command (A/ECHS)
HQ Northern Command (A/ECHS)
HQ Central Command (A/ECHS)
HQ South Western Command (A/ECHS)
All Regional Centres

CLARIFICATION ON REVISED GUIDELINES FOR REFERRAL PROCESS IN ECHS

1. PI refer to following: -
 - (a) ECHS letter No B/49769/AG/ECHS dated 02 Sep 2024.
 - (b) GoI, MoD (DoESW)No.22D(06)/2019/WE/D(Res) dated 03 February 2020.
2. There has been many queries and representation with regard to the above letter at para 1(a) and the following clarifications are given: -
 - (a) **Single referral for spl Consultation.** Previously a referral was valid for one month and with each referral, you could consult the same specialist three times in a hospital in a month or three different specialists at a time. This referral system has been modified as follows:-
 - (i) The referral will be valid for three months instead of the one month earlier.
 - (ii) With the above referral a patient can consult a specialist in the same hospital for a maximum of six times e.g. if a patient is referred to a cardiologist and the patient chooses a hospital and consults a cardiologist, he can show the same doctor or any other doctor in the same specialty six times in the same hospital.
 - (iii) If the primary specialist you are referred to, refers you to another specialist you can show three such specialist including the primary specialist e.g. if the Polyclinic refers you to a Cardiologist and he in turn refers you to a Nephrologists and Pulmonologist this constitutes three consultations in the same hospital. Patient is left with 3 more consultation which he can use any time in three months.

(iv) Referral for Cancer (Radiotherapy, Chemotherapy etc), diabetes, Hypertension and other cardiac diseases is valid for 180 days as before. The number of sessions will be specified by the MO at PC/Service spl/Govt Hospital and the bills can be raised after each session.

(b) **Treatment for 70 yr and above beneficiaries.** The provision of ECHS beneficiaries aged 75 years are now valid for 70 yrs. The veterans above 70 yrs shall be permitted to seek direct OPD Consultation from Specialists of Private Hospitals Empaneled under ECHS without referral from ECHS. If any investigations/ procedures are advised and are required in emergency, no other authorization is required and the same may be undertaken. However, in non-emergency conditions approval of competent authority is required only if any un-listed investigations/ procedures are advised. **For listed procedures no referral is required.**

(c) **Investigation and treatment Procedures advised by spl of empanelled Hospital after referral by ECHS.** In the previous referral rules, anybody below 75 yrs had to come back to the polyclinic to get a referral for all listed investigation or procedures, which was valid for one month only. CGHS has amended this provision and no referral is required for any investigation or minor procedures other than CT scan, MRI scan, PET Scan or any other investigation costing over Rs 3000. As a measure to help veteran and not harass then to come back multiple times to polyclinic in the same referral, hospital may conduct all the test (including CT Scan, MRI Scan, PET Scan or any other investigation costing over Rs 3000. These tests have to be prescribed by the super specialist/ specialist, which have to be indicated and absolutely necessary. No unnecessary tests to be prescribed or done. All this referral is valid for 3 months. **The Rs 3000 limit and specialized test provision does not apply to veterans and their beneficiaries above 70 yrs. However, medicines prescribed by empanelled hospital will be collected only from Polyclinics.**

(d) **Admission in Empanelled Hospital.** A referral is required for any admission in the private hospital unless it is an emergency and the OIC Polyclinic approves an ER.

3. As per policy critically ill ECHS beneficiaries shall be permitted for follow up treatment in ECHS empanelled Hospitals: -

(a) Permission/ Referral for post-operative follow-up treatment in respect of following post-operative conditions requiring frequent Consultation from Specialist at private hospitals empanelled under ECHS need not be re validated from time to time and follow-up treatment may be under taken at CGHS rates without time limit.

(b) The consultation/investigation are permitted under these follow-ups The conditions covered are: -

(i) Post Cardiac Surgery Cases including Coronary Angioplasty.

(ii) Post Organ Transplant Cases (Liver, Kidney, Heart etc).

(iii) Post Neuro Surgery Cases/ Post brain Stroke cases requiring regular follow-up treatment.

- (iv) End Stage Renal Disease/ follow up cases of Liver Failure.
- (v) Cancer.
- (vi) Auto-immune disorder like Rheumatoid Arthritis requiring regular follow-up.
- (vii) Neurological disorder like Dementia, Alzheimer's disease, Parkinsonism etc.

4. **Unlisted procedures.** If any Un-listed investigation/procedure is advised, permission/ referral from competent authority shall be required except in emergency. **Any test below Rs 5000 can be done without permission as before.** The empaneled facility will use the online approval process for getting the approval and not harass the patient or their relatives to get the approval for unlisted investigations.

5. **Service specialist.** Any, listed/Unlisted test or procedure advised by any Service Spl/Govt Hospital spl does not require approval of **ECHSF-U** (previously App A for unlisted procedure). The empanelled Hospital or diagnostic will carry out the same and not harass the patient or send the ECHS-U for approval.

6. This has the approval of MD ECHS.


 (AC Nishil)
 Col
 Dir (Med)
 For MD ECHS

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} - for info pl.

Internal:-

All Sec - for info pl.

Stats & Automation Sec - for uploading on website and issue necessary instr to UTI-ITSL (BPA).

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02 Sep 2024

IHQ of MoD (Navy)/Dir ECHS (N)
DAV, Subroto Park
HQ Southern Command (A/ECHS)
HQ Eastern Command (A/ECHS)
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HQ Northern Command (A/ECHS)
HQ Central Command (A/ECHS)
HQ South Western Command (A/ECHS)
All Regional Centres

REVISED GUIDELINES FOR REFERRAL PROCESS IN ECHS

1. Please refer followings:-

- (a) MoD DoESW letter No 22D(06)/2019/WE/D(Res) dated 03 Feb 2020.
- (b) GOI MoHFWOMZ15025/18/2020/dir/cghs dt 09 Oct 2020.
- (c) GOI MoHFW OM Z15025/19/2024/DIR/CGHS/EHS(Comp No. 8281286) I/3687286/2024 dt 28 Jun 2024.
- (d) MoD DoESW letter No 22D(06)/2019/WE/D(Res-i) dated 30 Aug 2024.

2. In line with partial modification in referral system by CGHS related guidelines for referral procedures for Consultation, Investigation and Treatment in Government and Private Hospitals (empanelled with ECHS) under ECHS are as per details given below.

3. **Treatment at Private Empanelled Hospital.**

(a) **Single Referral for Specialist Consultation.** A referral issued by any Medical Officer of an ECHS Polyclinic will be valid for 3 months. During this period the beneficiary may consult two more specialists i.e. up to total of three specialists, if recommended by the primary specialist. A maximum 6 consultations shall be allowed during this validity period of 3 months.

(b) **Investigation and Treatment Procedures Advised by Specialist of Empanelled Private Hospital After Referral by ECHS.** No further referral from ECHS PC shall be required for undergoing routine listed investigations and minor procedures, not requiring admission in the hospital as advised by the specialist, within the validity period of 3 months from the date of issue of the initial referral. However, Referral from ECHS PC shall be required for special investigations like CT Scan, MRI Scan, PET Scan and any other investigation costing over Rs. 3,000/- and the referral will be valid for 3 months.

(c) Correspondingly, referral would be required from Medical Officer of ECHS PC for any procedure requiring admission in the hospital which would be valid for 3 months.

(d) In partial modification of para 3 of letter under ref 1.(a) the special provision for ECHS beneficiaries to avail Consultation/ investigations/ treatment procedures shall hereinafter apply to **ECHS beneficiaries aged 70 years and above** as against 75 years.

4. Treatment at Government Hospital (s).

(a) The term "Government hospital" would include all AIIMSs, Institutions of National Importance (INIS), North East Institutions, Tata Memorial Hospital and all other medical institutions under Central and State government.

(b) No referral or permission shall be required for undergoing consultation investigation/ treatment procedure including unlisted investigations/ procedures.

5. In case of of treatment under emergency and post operative follow up treatment the instructions remain the same as per extant rules.

6. This has the approval of MD ECHS.


(A C Nishil)
Col
Dir (Med)
For MD ECHS

Copy to:-

MoD/DoESW }
CGDA }
UTI- ITSL (BPA) } - for info pl.
SDCPL }

Internal

All Sec - for info
Stats & Automation Sec - for uploading on website and issue necessary instr to UTI-ITSL (BPA).

File No. 22D(06)/2019/WE/D(Res-I)
Government of India
Ministry of Defence
(Department Of Ex-Servicemen Welfare)

Sena Bhavan, New Delhi
Dated : 30 Aug 2024

To

The Chief of Army Staff
The Chief of Naval Staff
The Chief of Air Staff

Subject: **REVISED GUIDELINES FOR REFERRAL PROCESS IN ECHS**

1. Please refer followings:-

- (a) MoD DoESW letter No. 22D(06)/2019/WE/D(Res) dated 03 Feb 2020
- (b) GOI MoHFW O.M Z15025/18/2020/dir/CGHS dt 09 Oct 2020.
- (c) GOI MoHFW OM Z15025/19/2024/DIR/CGHS/EHS(Comp No. 8281286) I/3687286/2024 dt 28 Jun 2024.

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(b) **Investigation and Treatment Procedures Advised by Specialist of Empanelled Private Hospital After Referral by CGHS.** No further endorsement from ECHS PC shall be required for undergoing routine listed investigations and minor procedures, not requiring admission in the hospital as advised by the specialist, within the validity period of 3 months from the date of issue of the initial referral. However, referral/endorsement from ECHS PC shall be required for special investigations like CT Scan, MRI Scan, PET Scan and any other investigation costing over Rs. 3,000/- and the referral will be valid for 3 months.

(c) Correspondingly, referral/endorsement would be required from Medical Officer of ECHS PC for any procedure requiring admission in the hospital which would be valid for 3 month.

(d) In partial modification of para 3 of letter under ref 1.(a) the special provision for ECHS beneficiaries to avail Consultation/ investigations/ treatment procedures shall hereinafter apply to **ECHS beneficiaries aged 70 years** and above as against 75 years.

4. **Treatment at Government Hospital(s).**

(a) The term "Government hospital" would include all AIIMSs, Institutions of National Importance (INIS), North East Institutions, Tata Memorial Hospital and all other medical institutions under Central and State government.

(b) No referral or permission shall be required for undergoing consultation investigation/ treatment procedure including unlisted investigations/ procedures.

5. In case of treatment under emergency and post operative follow up treatment the instructions remain the same as per extant rules.

6. This has the concurrence of MoD(Fin/Pen) vide their I.D No. 32(17)/2019/Fin/Pen dated 29.08.2024.

Yours faithfully,



(Dr. P.P. Sharma)
OSD(WE/I&C)

Dr. P. P. SHARMA
OSD (WE/I&C)

Copy to:

1. PS to RM
2. PPS to RRM
3. CGDA, New Delhi
4. AG, IHQ of MoD (Army)
5. COP, IHQ of MoD (Navy)
6. AOA, IHQ of MoD (IAF)
7. MD ECHS

Copy for information to:

1. PPS to Secretary, ESW
2. PPS to JS (ESW)
3. PPS to Addl. FA & JS (EL)

No.22D(06)/2019/WE/D(Res)
Government of India
Ministry of Defence
(Department of Ex Servicemen Welfare)
Room No. 221, B Wing Sena Bhawan

New Delhi, Dated 03 February, 2020

To,

The Chief of Army Staff
The Chief of Naval Staff
The Chief of Air Staff

Subject: Revision of Guidelines regarding simplification of Referral Systems under ECHS.

The undersigned is directed to refer to Ministry of Health & Family Welfare OM No. Z15025/117/2017/DIR/CGHS/EHS dated 10th December, 2018, OM NO. Z15025/35/2019/DIR/CGHS/CGHS (P) dated 29th May, 2019 and OM NO. Z15025/35/2019/DIR/CGHS/CGHS(P) dated 29th May, 2019 and convey the approval of the Competent Authority to make the provision of aforesaid OMs of MoH&FW applicable to ECHS beneficiaries, as here under:-

- (i) Referral from ECHS Medical Officer/ECHS Specialist for consultation with Specialist at Private Hospitals empanelled under ECHS shall be valid for 30 days in the same hospital.
- (ii) Referral shall be valid for consultation upto 03 times in the same hospital within 30 days.
- (iii) Referral shall be valid for consultation with a maximum of 03 different Specialists, if required during a single visit.
- (iv) Advice of ECHS Medical Officer/ Specialist for listed investigations shall be valid for a period of 30 days.
- (v) Advice of ECHS Medical Officer/Specialist for listed treatment procedure shall be valid for a period of 03 months.
- (vi) If any listed investigation advised by Specialist of empanelled hospital is required urgently as a medical emergency and certified as such, may be undertaken at the same hospital.



2. ECHS beneficiaries aged 75 years and above shall be permitted to seek direct OPD Consultation from Specialists of Private Hospitals Empanelled under ECHS without referral from ECHS Polyclinic. However, medicines prescribed will be collected only from Polyclinics. If any investigations/ procedures are advised and are required in emergency, no other authorization is required and the same may be undertaken. However, in non-emergency conditions approval of competent authority is required if any non-listed investigations/procedures are advised. Medicines prescribed will be collected only from Polyclinics.

3. Critically ill ECHS beneficiaries shall be permitted for follow up treatment in ECHS empanelled Hospitals as per the details given under:

(a) Permission/ Referral for post-operative follow-up treatment in respect of following post-operative conditions requiring frequent Consultation from Specialist at private hospitals empanelled under ECHS need not be re validated from time to time and follow-up treatment may be under taken at CGHS rates without time limit.

(b) The consultation/investigation are permitted under these follow-up cases. The conditions covered are:-

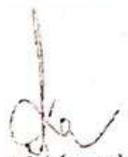
- (i) Post Cardiac Surgery Cases including Coronary Angioplasty.
- (ii) Post Organ transplant Cases (Liver, Kidney, Heart etc)
- (iii) Post Neuro Surgery Cases/ Post brain Stroke cases requiring regular follow-up treatment.
- (iv) End Stage Renal Disease/ follow up cases of Liver Failure.
- (v) Cancer treatment.
- (vi) Auto-immune disorder like Rheumatoid Arthritis requiring regular follow-up.
- (vii) Neurological disorder like Dementia, Alzheimer's disease, Parkinsonism etc.

(c) Medicines prescribed may be provided by ECHS Polyclinic.



(d) However, if any non-listed investigation/ procedure are advised, permission/ referral from competent authority shall be required except in emergency.

4. This issues with concurrence of Ministry of Defence (Finance/Pension) vide their U.O. No. 32(17)/2019/Fin/Pen (Part) dated 28.1.2020.


(A.K.Karn)

Under Secretary to the Govt. of India

Copy to:-

1. CGDA, New Delhi
2. PPS to Secretary(Defence/Finance)
3. JS (ESW)
4. DFA (Pension)
5. D (Medical)
6. O&M Unit
7. MD, ECHS.