IHMR New Delhi, works with a mission of improving standards of health through better management of healthcare and related programmes, prepare students for managerial positions with a focus on national and international healthcare management.

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SYNAPSE..... Monthly health e-newsletter

HOSPITAL AND HEALTH INSIGHT OF THE MONTH

NEW GUIDELINES AIMED AT REDUCING MATERNAL MORTALITY RATE

The centre has revised the guidelines for antenatal care and skilled attendance at birth by ANM (Auxiliary Nurse Midwife), LHV (Lady Health Visitor) and staff nurses, empowering them to reduce the MMR (Maternal Mortality Rate) and meet India’s commitment to the Millennium Development Goals. At present MMR in India is 254 deaths per 100,000 Live Births. According to the new guidelines, the health workers now called SBA (Skilled Birth Attendants), will have a greater role to play. The module can also be used by NGOs and private sector. The guidelines will now be disseminated to the states.

NABH STARTS ACCREDITATION FOR BLOOD BANKS IN THE COUNTRY

To ensure that blood banks follow safety norms the National Accreditation Board for Hospitals and Healthcare Providers (NABH), part of the Quality Council of India (QCI), has started accreditation for blood banks in the country. So far 16 blood banks in the country including 5 in Delhi have been accredited. As part of the standard protocol, NABH officials will evaluate the blood banks on various parameters.

STUDY ON FACTORS INFLUENCING DOCTORS’ RURAL SERVICE

A qualitative study on “Factors Influencing Decisions of Doctors to Serve in Rural and Remote Areas of Chhattisgarh State” was conducted by PHFI (Public Health Foundation of India), NHRSC (National Health System Resource Centre) and SHRC (State Health Resource Centre) Chhattisgarh. The reason to serve in rural areas was influenced mainly by geographical affinity and familial association and to some extent by preferential admission to higher education after serving in a rural place. Other contributing factors include personal values of service, operational interest and ambition, strong relationship with colleagues and in the case of contractual doctor the anticipation of obtaining a regular position.
JANANI SURAKSHA YOJANA (JSY) SEES DROP IN INFANT MORTALITY

In the first comprehensive study of India’s ambitious maternal health programme - the Janani Suraksha Yojna (JSY), conducted by researchers of Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI) and Institute of Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME), it has been revealed that the JSY payment scheme has resulted in a reduction of 3.7 perinatal deaths per 1000 pregnancies and 2.3 neonatal deaths per 100 live births. According to the Health Ministry, the JSY’s coverage has now increased three fold since its launch in 2005.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

BILL GATES BIGGER FUNDER OF WHO THAN US GOVERNMENT

At the 63rd World Health Assembly a 22 page briefing document by the WHO secretariat has revealed that the biggest funder to WHO is the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation rather than the US Government. However the US Government (at $424.4 million) is the biggest direct funder to the WHO as compared to the Gates Foundation (at $338.7 million) which indirectly funds the WHO through the Global Alliance for Vaccine and Immunization (GAVI), Programme for Appropriate Technology in Health (PATH), John Hopkins University and many other organizations.

WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION MAINTAINS SWINE FLU PANDEMIC ALERT

WHO Chief Margaret Chan decided to maintain a pandemic alert nearly a year after she placed the world on maximum readiness for the new swine flu virus. The WHO is continuing the alert following the advice of a panel of scientists that fresh cases of A(H1N1) influenza are expected in coming weeks mainly in the southern hemisphere. Therefore it remains critical for countries to continue to maintain vigilance concerning the pandemic.

EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN AND GIRLS TOPS AGENDA AT UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Speakers at the annual United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) had called for women and girls to be placed at the centre of the global struggle to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). ECOSOC President Hamidon Ali, (referring to the eight goals that world leaders have agreed to try to realize before their 2015 deadline) has said that this year’s focus “allows us to strengthen the linkages between gender equality, women's human rights and non-discrimination as a basis for progress in development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals.” In his opening address to the meeting, held at UN Headquarters in New York, Mr. Ali said that while the third goal relates directly to the empowerment of women, “all MDGs are dependent upon women having a greater say in their own development.”

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS LAUNCHES NEW GLOBAL INITIATIVE HELPING BABIES BREATHE

Helping Babies BreatheSM is an initiative of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), in consultation with the WHO, and in collaboration with the United States Agency for International Development, Save the Children/Saving Newborn Lives, the Enucie Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, Laerdal Medical AS, and a number of other global health organizations. The collaborators will sign a Global Public-Private Alliance to launch the initiative as part of the annual meeting of the Global Health Council June 14-16 in Washington, DC.
RAY OF HOPE FOR CANCER VICTIMS

Two studies, using opposite strategies, have succeeded in treating 2 of the worst cancers. The Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston used a focused approach for lung cancer to block a protein causing tumors to shrink significantly. The Angeles Clinic & Research Institute, Santa Monica, California used a broader strategy for melanoma, to block the protein acting as a brake on the immune system, thus helping the immune system to attack the cancer. Genetic mutations in the patient may help if the target drugs and immune boosting genes work together, turning it into the ultimate personalized cancer treatment.

MOST WOMEN DRUG ABUSERS BELOW 20 YRS

‘Women and Drug Abuse in India’ a high risk assessment study conducted by the UNODC has found that female substance abuse were mostly in their 20’s or 30’s with about 6.2% below 20 years of age. Nearly one of three is illiterate and majority are married, of which a more than half were married before the age of 18 years. Over 50% living with or married to a substance user were financially dependent.

STUDY SAYS ANTI-CHOLESTEROL DRUG, MAY CAUSE DEPRESSION

Study conducted by Amitabha Chattopdhyay and his group at Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB), and published in the journal ‘Biochemistry’ by the American Chemical Society, found that long term use of statins, cholesterol drugs caused significant changes in the structure and function of serotonin receptors and may lead to depression in a small but significant percentage. The professor said statins were the highest selling drug in the market and this new finding might lead to combination drugs in the future.

ONE SHOT RADIATION FOR BREAST CANCER

A team of British doctors has successfully conducted clinical trials of Targeted Intraoperative Radiotherapy (TIR) in nine countries involving 2200 women suffering from breast cancer. The trials ensure a new approach for treating breast cancer, involving targeted radiotherapy for 30 minutes to treat only the affected part of the breast instead of the present regimen lasting for over six weeks and treating the entire breast.
INTRODUCTION

The National Highway Trauma Care project had been initiated during 2005, but it has come into focus after the declaration by the Union minister of Health, Ghulam Nabi Azad in December 2009. The trauma care project will be established by upgrading and strengthening existing selected government hospitals situated along the national highways as per the 11th Five Year Plan, such that trauma care facilities would be available at a distance of every 100-150 km along the national highways. The government plans to set up the network of trauma care centres along the Golden Quadrilateral, and the north-south and east-west corridors of the national highways at a total cost of Rs. 732.75 crore. In the first phase only first 5 national highways [NH1-NH5] connecting important cities will be equipped with trauma care units.

AIMS

- Immediate disaster management in severe road accidents.
- To provide quick care in case of fatal mishaps on national highways
- To reduce the morbidity and mortality factors occurring due to road accidents.
- To combat the death percentage of highway accidents
- To provide immediate aid to accident victims during fatal accidents occurring on highways.
- To ensure the availability of life support ambulances every 50 km. along the National Highways.

STRATEGIES

The strategies proposed are:

- Setting up the tertiary level units across the country which will act as referral units for severe trauma cases. Sanjay Gandhi memorial hospital in Bangalore, Vedanta group’s upcoming 300 bedded trauma care unit in Bhubaneswar, AIIMS etc are coming up with big way to equip the trauma cases.

- The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) has also extended technical support to NHAI (National Highway Authority of India) and MOHFW (Ministry of health and family welfare) in upgrading and equipping trauma care units all across the country.

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NOTE: The newsletter is open for inclusion of any information or advertisement; however selection of information will be governed by the SYNAPSE Team, IIHMR, New Delhi

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