WORLD BANK RECOMMENDS RSBY TO THE REST OF THE WORLD.

India’s public health insurance scheme, the Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY), covering 19 million poor families is now going global after getting the World Bank’s recommendation. Due to its good design and successful implementation, countries like Indonesia, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Nigeria and Ghana have shown their interest in the scheme by learning from India experience. It is a smart card-driven fool-proof technology in which the biometric card has the fingerprint of the cardholder and a mere swipe allows free treatment at empanelled hospitals.

GLOBAL CANCER CONTROL EFFORTS: A THREE-STEP APPROACH.

To disprove the assumption that cancer will remain untreated in poor countries, global health experts in the recent issue of The Lancet have recommended a three-pronged strategy to improve the facilities for cancer patients. Firstly to implement large scale demonstration programmes to build infrastructure and train health professionals, to overcome the limitation of resources. Secondly to implement regional & global pricing and procurement mechanism to reduce the prices for essential services. Thirdly to expand the financial resources available for cancer in developing world.

TOBACCO USE DOUBLE IN INDIAN WOMEN

According to the latest Global Adult Tobacco Survey (GATS) data for India, female tobacco users have doubled while males have dropped by 10%. According to the survey conducted on 70,000 people across 29 states and 2 union territories, Mizoram had the highest number of tobacco users (67% of its population) while Goa had the lowest at 9%. In India, smokeless forms of tobacco use are highly prevalent.

CONDITIONAL MATERNITY BENEFIT SCHEME LAUNCHED

The Union cabinet committee on Economic Affairs has approved the Indira Gandhi Matritva Sahyog Yojana (IGMSY) to improve maternal and child health. It is a monetary scheme for pregnant women and lactating mothers to be launched on a pilot basis in this five year plan. Each pregnant and lactating mother will receive Rs. 4000 in 3 installments between the second trimester of pregnancy until the child is six months old. The scheme which will be fully funded by the centre and cost Rs. 1000 Crore is to be implemented through the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS).

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Hospital and Health insight
- Global news
- Recent researches
- Upcoming conferences
- Events at IIHMR, New Delhi.
- Do you know??
- Review Page- National Identification Number: Global Issues and Solution

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

   Date: 17th - 20th, November.
   Venue: AIIMS, New Delhi
   Email: nbcdelhi@gmail.com

2) 8th World Congress on Oral Implantology & AAID Global Conference 2010.
   Date: 22nd - 24th, November.
   Venue: Hotel Le Meridien, New Delhi.
   Website: http://www.wcoiindia2010.com/

3) Pharma Trials World India 2010
   Date: 6th - 8th, December.
   Venue: Grand Hyatt, Mumbai
   Website: http://www.terrapinn.com/2010/pharmatrialsind/
DNB DOCTORS WILL NOW BE MEDICAL FACULTY.

With an additional year of senior residency, a doctor with a Diplomate of the National Board of Medical Examinations (DNB) degree will now be eligible to teach. This Medical Council of India (MCI) proposal has been cleared by the Union Health & Family Welfare Ministry to help overcome the faculty shortage in medical colleges. Thus, the 3000 DNB-qualified doctors passing out yearly with a degree in 54 subjects will automatically be recognized as faculty members.

US HEALTHCARE REFORM BILL, AN OPPORTUNITY FOR INDIAN SMEs.

In March this year, the US passed its key healthcare reform bill which brought a lot of cheer among offshore healthcare providers in India. Under the legislation, health insurance in the US will be extended to all its nationals. This would expand the coverage to 32 million currently uninsured Americans. This could be heartening news for small & medium enterprises as it will help in more than 20% growth in offshore Indian firms.

BIOCON AND PFIZER ENTER INTO A GLOBAL AGREEMENT FOR WORLDWIDE COMMERCIALIZATION OF BIOCON’S PRODUCTS

Biocon & Pfizer Inc. have entered into a strategic global agreement for the worldwide commercialization of Biocon’s biosimilar versions of Insulin and Insulin analog products: Recombinant Human Insulin, Glargine, Aspart and Lispro. Pfizer will have exclusive rights to commercialize these products globally, with certain exceptions, including co-exclusive rights for all of the products with Biocon in Germany, India and Malaysia. Pfizer will also have co-exclusive rights with existing Biocon licensees with respect to some of the products, primarily in a number of developing markets. Biocon will remain responsible for the clinical development, manufacture and supply of these biosimilar Insulin products, as well as for regulatory activities to secure approval for these products in various geographies. Biocon's Recombinant Human Insulin formulations are approved in 27 countries in developing markets, and commercialized in 23, while Glargine has been launched in its first market, India.

mWOMEN, AN INITIATIVE TO PROVIDE MOBILE PHONES TO 150 MILLION WOMEN IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES LAUNCHED IN US

mWomen, an initiative aimed at increasing access to mobile phones to further health and development benefits among women in the developing countries was launched at the State Department office, Washington DC by Cherie Blair, Hillary Clinton, Rob Conway (CEO of GSMA) and Melanne Verveer, an Ambassador-Large for Global Women's Issues. The program's goal is to provide 150 million women around the world with access to mobile phone technology. Major components of mWomen are: offering technical assistance, with activities focused on catalyzing the mobile industry to work collectively to close the gender gap and track progress, including development of business cases for mobile phone operators; and providing value-added, life-changing services in the areas of health, education, finance and entrepreneurship, to be delivered by mobile phone operators in partnership with the international development committee.
UN RELEASES THE WORLD’S WOMEN 2010 TO MARK WORLD STATISTICS DAY

To mark World Statistics Day on 20th October, the United Nations released “The World’s Women 2010”, the latest report in a series of compilations published every five years. Although the 255-page report shows that women have progressed in health and education, they lag behind overall. Of the world’s nearly seven billion population, men outnumber women by 57 million, especially in countries like China, India, Pakistan and Bangladesh, that have the highest female child mortality rates. Though women pursuing higher education now make up 51 percent of college students, they earn 70 percent to 90 percent of their male counterparts.

NEW THERAPY KILLS HIV - INFECTED CELLS

According to a research published in the scientific journal AIDS Research and Therapy, scientists from the Israeli University’s Alexander Silberman Institute of Life Sciences and Institute of Chemistry have developed a new treatment that destroys HIV infected Human Cells without damaging healthy ones. Peptides, developed by the scientists, cause massive replication in the infected cell and trigger its self destruction.

FIRST TRIAL WITH HUMAN EMBRYONIC STEM CELLS

The first trial of human embryonic stem cells on patients has been started by US doctors with GRNOPCI, a product of the Geron Corporation. GRNOPCI is made up of cells with precursors of oligodendrocytes i.e. multitasking cells present in the nervous system. The phase 1 of this trial will involve 10 severely injured patients and treatment in such cases has to be started within 7 – 14 days after sustaining the injury. The process involves production of biologicals that enhance the survival and function of neurons, thus helping in regaining sensation. The trial has been successful on animals.

NEW H1N1 STRAIN BEING REPORTED

According to a research published in Reuters Health, a new strain of the H1N1 swine flu virus, first detected in Singapore in early 2010, has now spread throughout New Zealand and Australia. More study is needed to eliminate concerns that the new strain could potentially be more deadly and possibly could infect people who have been vaccinated. Though flu viruses constantly mutate, the H1N1 which broke out in March 2009 has so far been very stable with virtually no mutation. The current seasonal flu vaccine protects against all three flu strains. Researchers are now keen to know whether the current vaccine can protect against it completely.

DO YOU KNOW?

1. Alcoholism raises risk of sexually transmitted diseases.
2. Malarial deaths in India exceed WHO estimates.
3. IVF pioneer gets this year’s Nobel Prize for Medicine.
4. Dengue costs India almost $ 30m every year: WHO report.
5. New CPR guidelines: Chest compressions before rescue breathing.
6. UPA’s rural health cover plan (RSBY) now open to all.
7. World Mental Health Day was celebrated on 10th October.
8. Global Handwashing Day was celebrated on 15th October.
10. MCI circular to crackdown on quacks countrywide.

RECENT RESEARCHES

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Literally translating, UID means “Unique Identification”. It could have different meanings for different uses. In India’s context, it is a volunteer identity that will be issued to all Indians by the Unique Identification Authority of India, whether they are the citizens or not.

In the United States, a Social Security number (SSN) is a nine-digit number issued to U.S. citizens, permanent residents, and temporary (working) by the Social Security Administration, an independent agency of the United States government. Its primary purpose is to track individuals for taxation purposes. The SSN is frequently used by those involved in identity theft, since it is interconnected with so many other forms of identification, and because people asking for it treat it as an authenticator.

UIDAI or unique identification project was initially conceived by the Planning Commission to generate a unique identification for each resident across the country to deliver welfare services.

UID cards distribution will start full phase in the year 2011 and Tembli’s villagers will get the first UID cards. Aadhaar is the brand name of this identification number, which is a unique 12-digit number to be issued by the UIDAI for all residents. Aadhaar is expected to eliminate duplicate and fake identities in government and private databases in a cost-effective manner. It will be randomly generated and will not be based upon caste, creed, religion and geography of individuals.

**Need of UID**

1. It is a single, unique identity that will be recognized and accepted across the country and across all service providers.
2. Helps governments run on tighter budgets by reconciling what they are paying for with what they actually receive.
3. UID has been gaining momentum in policy mandates globally and will affect all defence suppliers, military organizations, and government.
4. Aadhaar will empower poor underprivileged residents.
5. Direct benefits in terms of banking and communication technologies—credit card, debit card, opening of bank account, online tax returns.
7. Detailed health profile of individual.
8. This card will be our driving license and ownership.
9. No one can buy or sell any property and cast vote without UID card.
10. UID drives overall efficiencies by eliminating manual data entry.

**DRAWBACKS:**

- Useful for Indians living both in India and abroad, when it is difficult to identify if the person is Indian, Brazilian, Pakistani or Bangladeshi.
- There are many potential privacy fallouts of this project. It violates a number of basic rights i.e. Rights to equality, dignity, privacy, expression and the right not to be discriminated against.
- Cards can be forged, stolen, faked and identity process diluted. So it is good for the biometric identification of an individual.
- It will not be feasible and accountable for the population under poverty line.

Thus, everyone should be provided with a unique identification to maintain transparency and inhibit corruption.