

IIHMR 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

## IN THIS ISSUE:

- ✓ Hospital and Health insight
- ✓ Global news
- ✓ Recent researches
- ✓ Upcoming conferences
- ✓ Events at IIHMR, New Delhi
- ✓ Do you know??
- ✓ Review Page - "Polio Eradication- India's Progress"- Lecture By Dr. Ekant Bhati, WHO, India

## UPCOMING CONFERENCES

- 1) Conference on Universal Health Coverage: Advancing the Agenda and Addressing the Challenges  
Date: 11th - 12th April 2012  
Venue: New Delhi, India  
Organized By : Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI) and the Health Economics Association of India (HEAI)  
  
Website:  
<http://www.heai.org.in>
- 2) First International Infertility and OBG 2012  
Date: 19th - 22nd April 2012  
Venue: Dehradun, Uttarakhand, India  
Organized By : GODS  
  
Website:  
<http://www.fogsiddn2012.com>
- 3) 8th Asia Conference on Healthcare and Health Insurance  
Date: 24th - 25th April 2012  
Venue: Mumbai, India  
Organized by: Asia Insurance Review  
  
Website:  
<http://www.asiainsurancereview.com/Health/>

## HOSPITAL AND HEALTH INSIGHT OF THE MONTH

### E-WAY TO HEALTH: GOVERNMENT BETS BIG ON TELEMEDICINE

Soon all of India's PHC's and Sub-centres are going to become hi-tech as the Health Ministry plans to make an entry of M-Health, E-Health and Skype in Indian health infrastructure. The Steering Committee on Health said that in the 12th Plan, all district hospitals and PHC's would be linked to leading tertiary care centres through telemedicine. M-Health will be used to speed-up transmission of data. India will soon put in place a Citizen Health Information System (CHIS), a biometric information system to record health information of every citizen.

### NATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL (NAC) DISCUSSED OVER THE POSSIBILITY OF PROVIDING UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE ACROSS THE COUNTRY

The president of Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI) and the Chairman of High Level Expert Group (HLEG) constituted by the Planning Commission talked over Universal Health Coverage for India. Recommendations and suggestions were presented on doubling of expenditure on health to 2.5 percent of the Gross Domestic Product by 2017 and to 3 percent by 2022. NAC chaired by Sonia Gandhi and its members Mirai Chatterjee and A.K. Shivakumar presented a draft of recommendations which suggested making the Social Security Act 2008 as inclusive as possible with a comprehensive social security package.

### TRIVALENT POLIO SHOT SHELVED

The India Expert Advisory Group (IEAG) on Polio has recommended that the nation should stop the use of Trivalent Oral Polio Vaccine (TOPV), and only rely on the oral bivalent variant. The World Health Organization (WHO) will take a final call after the meeting of its Strategic Advisory Group of Experts (SAGE) on Immunization. India recorded this year's first Vaccine-Derived Polio Virus (VDPV) infection case in Bengal. The VDPV infections are higher with the use of TOPV according to the experts.

### 710 CRORE TO FIGHT TUBERCULOSIS NEXT FISCAL

To combat with Tuberculosis, the annual budget for 2012-2013 will see about eighty percent increase over that of previous financial year. While the country's annual health budget is going to increase by 13-15 percent this year, the Planning Commission has decided to allot 710 crore for 2012-13. The programme received 400 crore last year. The Revised National Tuberculosis Control Programme (RNTCP) has demanded around 936 crore for 2012-13, but the Planning Commission has allotted around 710 crore. India accounts for about one-fifth (21 percent) of TB's global incidence, or an estimated 2million cases. RNTCP has till now saved more than 2.3 million lives.

## EVENTS AT IIHMR

### 1. CIPM

IIHMR, New Delhi launches Online Web based Course of Certificate in Project Management (CIPM) - specialization in Healthcare.

For details visit-

<http://www.cepm-iihmr.org>

## GOVERNMENT PROPOSES NRHM TO BECOME NHM SOON

The Government has proposed to convert the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) into a National Health Mission (NHM). This is to be done to include the urban poor also in the domain of health. The Government plans to provide universal access to free generic essential medicines in public health institutions. The Government cites the example of the Mortality Rate being declined from 58 per thousand live births in 2005 to 47 in 2010 and the National Mortality Ratio from 254 per 1,00,000 deliveries in 2004-06 to 212 in 2007-09. The Janani Suraksha Yojana has also been very effective, benefitting over 1.13 crore women during 2010-11. Now the Government wants to improve the indicators by including the urban population into it.

## GLOBAL NEWS

### BRICS BRINGING NEW RESOURCES AND APPROACHES TO HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT AS OTHER DONORS LAG

According to a report released on the eve of the 2012 BRICS Summit; Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa are injecting new resources, momentum and innovation into efforts to improve health in the world's poorest countries. While all five countries have been under foreign assistance for decades, but their contribution have increased with their rising economies. According to a report of Global Health Strategies Initiatives (GHSi), with growing capacity for innovation and an emphasis on South-South partnership, the BRICS are delivering important new health interventions and technologies to developing countries. Their approach to foreign assistance is different from that of traditional donors because of their own domestic experiences. The report also cites various examples including the contribution of India in driving down the costs of vaccines and HIV/AIDS medication. The report also cites a number of possible subject areas where the BRICS could coordinate their efforts, including TB innovation, prevention and control of non - communicable diseases, polio eradication, disease surveillance and access to vaccines.

### MORE EVIDENCE AND BETTER DIAGNOSTICS NEEDED BEFORE REDEFINING SEVERE FORMS OF DRUG-RESISTANT TB SAYS WHO

In a recent WHO meeting in Geneva on 21-22 March, participants stressed that the emergence of drug resistance TB should be a wake-up call for Ministries of Health. It was discussed that there is currently insufficient evidence to adopt new case definitions for drug-resistant TB. According to them Drug susceptibility testing (DST), lacks accuracy for several of the drugs that are used to treat multi drug-resistant (MDR) and extensively drug resistant (XDR)-TB. The meeting urged diagnostics companies and TB laboratories to develop better diagnostic tests to reach the desired level. The group urged the global TB community to make greater efforts to prevent drug resistance and scale up provision of appropriate care and management to avoid a scenario where TB becomes incurable.

### COMMISSION FORMED FOR WELFARE OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN

UNICEF and UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund, have launched a high-level Commission to improve access to essential health commodities. This step can help in saving lives of millions of women and children every year. The Commission will identify strategies for improving the delivery of essential health supplies which will include strengthening local production capacities, promoting new technologies and products. It will also work towards strengthening regulatory frameworks and enhancing innovative financing mechanisms at both the global and local levels.

## DO YOU KNOW?

1. Go for extra cover with a Top – Up Health Plan
2. Pfizer Scraps Insulin Pact with Biocon
3. Dr Reddy's Mankind Pharma to Add Workforce Next Fiscal
4. Study in Tamil Nadu to know gestational diabetes effects
5. Department of Ayush to promote concept of "Ayush villages"
6. Loneliness could be deadly
7. Eurocopter to focus on new markets in India
8. India patent ruling may open door for cheaper HIV drugs
9. Medical bill shoots up for Aam Admi

Availability, affordability, access and rational use of health interventions are the target set by this Commission to achieve its goals.

### LAUNCH OF GLOBAL HEALTH SERVICE PARTNERSHIP

The Peace Corps, PEPFAR and the Global Health Service Corps have come together to form Global Health Service Partnership, a public-private partnership in which nurses, physicians and other health professionals in medical or nursing schools, will work in developing nations. These professionals will educate the next generation of health professionals in these nations and help in filling the shortage of doctors and nurses there. The principle behind the program is that more is the capacity available in different countries; more will be the ability of these countries to take ownership of their own health systems.

### RECENT RESEARCHES

#### ALZHEIMER'S AND DEMENTIA RISK REDUCED BY COFFEE

A four years long study published in the "Journal of Alzheimer's Disease" states that coffee consumption aids in reducing chances of brain cell wasting diseases like Dementia and Alzheimer. The stimulant (caffeine) triggers a reaction in the brain that prevents damage. The study of people older than sixty-five found that those who developed the early signs of the disease had fifty-one percent less caffeine in their blood than those who stayed healthy.

#### CHEST PAIN NOT MUST FOR STROKE

The comprehensive study that was published in the "Journal of the American Medical Association" has revealed that about thirty percent of patients have painless heart attack. The findings also said that mostly people suffering from hypertension and diabetes have greater chances of having painless heart attack. In such cases, signals of discomfort are vague and weak which reduces opportunities for effective treatment. The study done at the chest pain centre of Lakeland Regional Medical Centre, showed that out of 1.1 million people, forty-two percent of women who were admitted for heart attack never experienced chest pain, while the figure was 30.7 percent in the case of men.

#### CAUSE OF MALE BALDNESS FOUND

In a study published in the journal "Science Translational Medicine", claims that the cause of baldness in males has been found. They are Prostaglandin D2, also known as PGD2 and its derivative (15-dPGJ2). Incidentally PGD2 and its derivative were found to show the same effect in mice as well. Different prostaglandins have been known to regulate and increase hair growth. The study provides the first ray of hope to people who show early signs of balding. The authors suggest that the level of PGE2 should be increased while inhibiting PGD2 signalling. The act of inhibiting PGD2 level "may prevent miniaturization and provide benefit to those in the process of balding".

#### ASPIRIN MAY PREVENT CANCER: STUDY

A dose of Aspirin everyday can hold back the danger of a heart attack, say researchers in two journals namely in "ACS Medicinal Chemistry" and "Biochemical and Biophysical Research Communication". According to the New York based researchers it can be the best bet against eleven kind of cancers for example Colon and Breast cancers. This designer or hybrid aspirin uses two gas molecules - namely nitric oxide and hydrogen sulphide (NOSH – aspirin) to do the trick, said the researchers in the two journals.

## CURRENT TOPIC

“Polio Eradication- India’s Progress”-  
Lecture By Dr. Ekant Bhati, WHO:  
NPSP, India

## TOPIC IN NEXT ISSUE

“Implementation techniques of HMIS  
in Brown field Hospital by Dr.  
Supten Sarbadhikari, Chairperson -  
HL7 India”

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## REVIEW PAGE

### “POLIO ERADICATION- INDIA’S PROGRESS”- LECTURE BY DR. EKANT BHATI, WHO:NPSP, INDIA

Dr. Ekant Bhati visited IIHMR, New Delhi on 6th March 2012 to deliver a lecture on “Eradication of polio and its progress in India.” Dr Ekant Bhati is the Surveillance Medical Officer (SMO) of WHO: NPSP, having project under NPSP (National Polio Surveillance Project), India.

#### POLIO PARTNERSHIP -

The Polio Eradication Initiative (PEI) is a global collaborative effort. In India, the polio partnership is led by the Government of India, with continued support from WHO’s National Polio Surveillance Project (NPSP), Rotary International, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and UNICEF, as well as significant contributions by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

#### KEY STRATEGIES CONTRIBUTED TO SUCCESS -

- A ‘107 Block Plan’ is specifically designed to address gaps in OPV (Oral Polio Vaccine) coverage. ‘107 block plan’ lays out specific interventions to optimize SIA (Supplementary Immunization Activity) coverage and additional activities to mitigate the factors that are facilitating WPV transmission in prone areas.
- The second element is the “Migrant Strategy”, which is designed to deal with the risk that wild poliovirus will survive in migrant and mobile populations
- A data-driven planning process has been developed to serve as the backbone for polio eradication communication activities. Strategic and synergistic communication efforts that integrate social mobilization, interpersonal communication, gender- and culturally-sensitive interventions, mass/folk media and political advocacy have contributed to the Initiative’s progress and to access unreached populations
- Maintaining an intensive schedule of surveillance reviews to identify and correct problems. Surveys were carefully designed and targeted to provide information on population immunity with reference to current epidemiology and risks, and preceding immunization campaigns.
- The application of GPEI (Global Polio Eradication Initiative) approaches to develop the ‘Reaching Every District (RED)’ strategy to improve routine immunization coverage in priority areas and the expansion of the AFP (Acute Flaccid Paralysis) surveillance network.
- Mobilization of community leaders, communication and relationship-building, engaging families and caregivers such as involving religious leaders as spokespersons and using faith-based folk media (i.e. mosque announcements) to reach community members.

#### WHAT NEXT?

The annual strategy for polio eradication over the next three years had been decided on the recommendations of the India Expert Advisory Group (IEAG) comprising national and international experts. The main objective is to achieve the goal of zero transmission of polio and obtaining international polio free certification for accomplishment of this goal.

**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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