

Mandatory TB notification Gazette for private practitioners, chemists and public health staff

[Revised National Tuberculosis Control Programme]

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. What is this new gazette for Mandatory TB notification Gazette for private practitioners, chemists and public health staff?

This gazette is notified by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Govt of India as another step towards Ending TB in India. Aim is only one, to reach up to every single TB patient in the county. Till now, only medical practitioners, hospitals and laboratories were notifying TB patients to system. Now with this new gazette all chemists will also implement schedule H1 and inform on TB patients for whom they have dispensed the TB drugs. Also, TB patients themselves are encouraged to notify themselves. Every TB patients will be attempted to reach out by the local Public Health Authority, namely, District Health Officer or Chief Medical Officer of a District and Municipal Health Officer of urban local bodies, so that the incentives and support to patients, families and communities can be extended

2. What is the role of public health staff once the private provider notify a TB patient?

Based on notification of TB patient, Public health staff will take public health actions including patient home visit as per convenience of patient, counselling of patient and family members, treatment adherence and follow up support ensure treatment completion, contact tracing, symptoms screening, evaluation of tuberculosis symptomatics and offering isoniazid chemoprophylaxis to eligible contacts, offering HIV counseling and testing, drug susceptibility testing and linking with available social welfare and support schemes.

3. Is this gazette applicable to only private sector doctors?

No. This gazette clearly mentions role of both public and private sector medical practitioners, laboratories, chemists as well as public health staff. Not only that, it also encourages patients to notify themselves.

4. Is this gazette applicable for whole country?

This Official Gazette is applicable in all the States and Union territory Administrations.

5. What does this gazette mandates?

This gazette mandates the clinical establishments (medical practitioners, laboratories and chemists) to notify each and every TB patients to the nodal officer. At the same time, it also mandates the concerned public health staff to take necessary public health action for each notified TB patient to provide all necessary care and support and prevent further transmission.

6. What if any clinical establishment does not notify a TB patient?

If anyone is failing on their duties like TB notification or if someone is doing purposefully any action to allow spread of this deadly disease is already punishable under law under IPC section 269 and 270; which is mentioned in this gazette.

7. What is the ultimate patient benefit of this gazette?

Government has already announced incentives for TB patients for nutritional support in the form of Rs.500/- per month during the treatment. This gazette will help reaching out to each TB patients so that no one is left out.

8. What is the benefit for a busy practitioner and a chemist if they notify a TB patient?

Any private healthcare provider notifying TB patient is actually doing a great service to the humanity and the nation. Online web based application named Nikshay and its android mobile application is available for the practitioners to notify a TB patient. Further, these providers will be given nominal cash incentive of Rs.1000/- per TB patient. Of this Rs.500/- will be given on notification once it is verified and Rs.500/- on treatment completion. enrolled for Aadhaar and in case, there is no Aadhaar enrolment centre located in the respective Block or Taluka or Tehsil, the Department responsible for implementation of the Scheme in the State Government or Union Territory Administration shall provide Aadhaar enrolment facilities at convenient locations in coordination with the existing Registrars of UIDAI or by becoming UIDAI Registrar

9. Will this not overburden the health system to extend Aadhaar enrolment services?

Not really. As Aadhaar coverage is very good and very few eligible individuals will require additional efforts for enrolment.

10. Will there be denial of services if Aadhaar card is not produced?

No. No diagnostic or treatment services will be denied to any patients if the individual does not produce proof of possession of Aadhaar Card.

11. What is the main objective of issuing such a gazette?

Main objective of this gazette is to ensure use of Aadhaar as identity document for delivery of services or benefits or subsidies simplifies the Government delivery processes, brings in transparency and efficiency and enables beneficiaries to get their entitlement directly in a convenient and seamless manner

12. Who are the beneficiaries covered under this gazette?

Currently, the eligible beneficiaries are TB patients, eligible Treatment supporter and registered private providers as per existing RNTCP scheme.

13. How will confidentiality of Aadhaar number be maintained?

Every health staff collecting Aadhaar card details will give undertaking for maintaining its confidentiality and the EHR/EMR policy of Ministry of Health & Family Welfare will be followed strictly ensuring this information as sensitive personal information. Also, the policy as per IT Act and Aadhaar Act as its update notifications from time will be followed.

14. How will this Aadhar information be used?

Aadhar information will be used for identity as well as for Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) using Aadhar Authentication for e-payments (using PFMS) directly into patients bank accounts. This will be institutionalized through National Health Mission.

15. How will this initiative help in TB elimination?

This will help in ensuring timely payment of incentives to eligible individuals in a transparent and efficient manner. This will establish good governance in programme implementation, at the same time, it will also enhance participation of private practitioners and community volunteers in public health programme. And most importantly, needy TB patients will receive financial assistance and aid to help them complete their treatment, which is very crucial for achieving target of ending TB i.e. TB elimination.