Proceedings of the 17th Executive Committee meeting of the Suvarna Arogya Suraksha Trust under the chairmanship of the Principal Secretary, Health & Family Welfare Department held on 17/12/2013 at 3.30 PM in SAST Office.

Members Present

1. Sri. M. Madan Gopal, Principal Secretary to Government, Health & Family Welfare Department & Chairman of Suvarna Arogya Suraksha Trust Vikasa Soudha, Bangalore.
3. Sri. Suresh K Mohammad, Mission Director, NRHM & Project Administrator, KHSRP
4. Dr. Sudarshan, Karuna Trust,
5. Dr. Geetha Nyamagowda, Director, Health & Family Welfare Services.
6. Dr. P. Boregowda, Executive Director, SAST, Bangalore.
7. Officers of SAST

Members - Leave of absence:

1. Smt. Rashmi, Secretary to Government, Medical Education Dept.
2. Dr. K.V. Raju, Professor, ISEC

The Executive Director, SAST welcomed the Chairman and members to the meeting.

Subjects on the Agenda were taken up for discussion.

1. **Confirmation of the proceedings of 16th EC Meeting held on 1/8/2013**

   The Executive Committee confirmed the proceedings of the 16th Executive Committee meeting held on 1/8/2013.

2. **Action taken report of the proceedings of the 16th EC Meeting held on 1/8/2013**

   The Executive Committee perused the action taken report in respect of the proceedings of 16th Executive Committee meeting held on 1/8/2013 and approved the same.

3. **Progress of Preauthorization and Claims Settlement Processes**

   The Committee perused the cumulative progress achieved in respect of 56848 preauthorization proposals amounting to Rs. 319.47 crores and settlement of 43617 claims amounting to Rs.227.87 crores since the inception of the Scheme.

   The Chairman enquired the details of beneficiaries of Gulbarga Division after the Scheme is extended to Bangalore & Mysore Division and the same has provided by Consultant, M&V, SAST.

   *(Action - Consultant, M&V)*
4. **Updates on activities of Empanelment and Disciplinary Committee for information:**

The Executive Committee perused the action taken in respect of empanelment of hospitals in the neighbouring States and also the findings of the proceedings of the EDC Meeting held on 21/9/2013 and 26/11/2013. The Committee noted the total empanelment of 88 hospitals in the State and 15 hospitals in the neighbouring States till date.

*(Action - Director, MM)*

5. **Receipts and Payments for the year 2013-14 from 1/4/2013 to 30/11/2013**

The Executive Committee perused the statement of Receipts and Payments for the year 2013-14 from 1/4/2013 to 30/11/2013. The Chairman enquired about the release of 4th Quarter and also said that if expenditure meets 75% of the amount suggested submitting the proposal for additional grant to the Government. In response to that, the Director (Finance) said, the proposal has already submitted to Government.

*The Committee noted the same.*

*(Action - Director, Finance)*

6. **Audit Report of the Trust for the year 2012-13**

The Executive Director explained about the Statutory Audit Report and Internal Audit Report of SAST for the year 2012-13 submitted by the Chartered Accountants to the Committee and also informed the findings raised by the Chartered Accountants regarding some of the districts of Bangalore & Mysore Divisions are not submitted the Utilization Certificate/Vouchers towards Mega camps conducted at various district centers and one of the Voucher is pending since 31/3/2011 which reflects in Balance Sheet in spite of sending reminders from Trust.

*The Committee discussed in length and decided to take appropriate action.*

*(Action - Director, Operations)*

7. **Introduction of penalty clause for delay - an amendment**

The Executive Director briefed the Committee that in the previous EC meeting, it was decided to introduce Penalty Clause for delay in submission of claims by Network Hospitals as “no claims will be settled” for the delay beyond 90 days and the hospitals have requested to reconsider as the penalty is very heavy, hence there is need an amendment to the said decision.
After detailed discussion, The Committee approved for the amendment by inserting “50% instead of No claims will be settled”.

(Action - Director, Finance)

8. **Delay in submission of Claims by Network Hospitals – Exemption of penalty clause - req.**

The Executive Director briefed the Committee that the penalty clause was introduced for delay in submission of claims by NWHs as per the decision of the 14th EC meeting and the penalties were applied with effect from 01.04.2013 to the concerned Networking Hospitals. As per the request of the Network Hospitals representations (Jayadeva Institute of Cardiology-Vascular Sciences, Belgaum Cancer Institute, Mahaveer Jain Hospital etc.) to exempt penalty as a special case and also requested to refund the penalty collected. The Executive Director has informed that so far the penalty deducted from Network Hospitals amounting to Rs. 90.00 lakhs.

After detailed discussion, the Committee decided to return the 50% of the deducted amount to the Network Hospitals who have adhered to the timeline. However, for the remaining hospitals, 20 days time to be given to comply and 50% of penalty collected could be returned only if they adhere to the timelines.

(Action - Director, Finance)

9. **Designing and developing Standard Treatment Guidelines/ Clinical pathways in the field of Oncology**

The Executive Director briefed the Committee that the SAST decided to standardize treatment in the field of Oncology by designing and developing STGs/Clinical pathways. Accordingly, a team of six members visited NICE International, UK for understanding, designing and implementing the clinical pathways. Post visit, six working groups of Oncologists was formed from public and private hospitals empanelled under VAS for Cancers with maximum utilization of budget such as; Breast, Cervix, Ovary, Head and Neck, Esophagus and Paediatric Oncology, 

The Deputy Director, SAST explained in detail that the working groups were provided with reference guidelines developed by FICCI & ICMR (India), NICE (UK) and NCCN (USA) to customize standard treatment guidelines for our Scheme and the same was vetted by the Steering Committee constituting of Dr. Vijayakumar of KIDWAI, Dr. Ajai Kumar of HCG and Dr. Anthony Pais of Narayana Hrudayalaya.
Administration of IMRT to Carcinoma-cervix patients was discussed in detail and decided as follows:

i) 3DCRT is appropriate for the Ca-cervix patients as expressed by the Sub-Committee. However, the committee decided to allow any hospital wishes to administer IMRT in lieu of 3DCRT at the rate of 3DCRT.

ii) Implement STGs from 1/1/2014 and in the meantime the same could be piloted in few Network Hospitals.

(Action - Director, MM)

10 Pre-auth & Claims for Thyroid and Ovarian Cancer

The Deputy Director explained in detail about the processing of pre-auths and claims where a pre-operative investigation either FNAC or CT Scan is suggesting Malignancy for thyroid and ovary cancer and after surgery when the specimen is sent for Histopathological examination (HpE), the report suggest benign lesion, for which, at present we are not paying any amount.

In response to this, the Executive Director informed the Committee that considering the request of the hospital and quantum of work done by them it is necessary to pay some percent of the package amount instead of denying full amount.

The Committee decided to pay 70% of the package amount and also decided to include "others" to Code No. 509 which reads as "509 – Medical Oncology – Cervical Cancer/Others for Rs. 2000/- per week".

(Action - Director, MM)

11. Health Camps – Publicity & Outreach through local cable T V Networks

The Executive Director briefed the Committee that every month, health camps are planned well in advance in conjunction with the Network Hospitals and the same was published through News papers one day before the camp. The expected outreach through this media is being limited to the quantum of circulation of the Newspaper and the advertisement is also costly.

The ED also informed that SAST felt that publicity through local cable T V network operators would have larger outreach and greater impact and the division and districtwise
details of leading cable TV networks regarding no. of connections, rate per week etc is chalked out.

Dr. Sudarshan suggested to use electronic media for effective publicity about VAS.

The Committee approved the proposal of Publicity & Outreach through local cable TV Networks.  

(Action - Consultant, IEC)

12. **Printing of Calendars-2014 about VAS**

The Executive Director explained the Committee that the proposal of designing and printing of calendars for the 2014 New year which would be circulated to each and every VAS and Rajiv Arogya Bhagya beneficiaries and all the District Health and Family welfare officers, District Hospitals, Taluk Hospitals, CHCs, PHCs, Arogya Mitras, ANMs, Health Workers, ZPs, TPs, GPs, Mps, MLAs, MLCs and all the Network Hospitals. He also informed that it is planned to elicit sponsorship/advertisement from Net Work Hospitals which partially cover the cost of printing and distributing the calendars.

The Committee approved the proposal of printing of calendars 2014 about VAS/RAB.  

(Action - Consultant, IEC)

13. **Creation of Posts in Suvarna Arogya Suraksha Trust Office for the implementation of “Rajiv Arogya Bhagya” to APL Population:**

The Executive Director briefed that the Government is extending of Scheme to the benefits of VAS to APL families in the name of Rajiv Arogya Bhagya, Government is also planning to entrust Government Employees Insurance Scheme also to Suvarna Arogya Suraksha Trust.

In view of the above extension, the Trust is in need to create certain posts in view of increase in the Scheme activities and to cope up the same.

The Committee after detailed discussion approved the posts proposed with the following modifications;

1. To create one more post of Deputy Director
2. For the Post of PRO instead of MBBS graduate doctor, Post graduate in Mass Communication/Journalism, Graduate with Diploma in Journalism and Mass Communication with 3 years experience to be added.

14. Proposed Amendment to the Deed of Trust

The Executive Director explained the need for bringing Amendment to Trust Deed. The Committee examined the same and decided to effect Amendment to the Trust Deed is as follows;

1. 1st Amendment: Wherever the word "Insurance" occurs in various clauses of the Deed of Trust, it shall get amended, substituted and will read as; "Insurance/Assurance".

2. 2nd Amendment: At SI No. (A) 3 of the Annexure – I to the Trust Deed - the definition of the "Beneficiary" shall get amended and will read as ; "Beneficiary" - Means any person who is either identified or decided by Government of Karnataka from time to time as beneficiary".

3. The "Principal Secretary/Secretary to Government, HFW Dept, GoK is empowered to make amendments as and when required to the Trust Deed in accordance with Clause 28.

15. Submission of hard copies of proposals by Network Hospitals

The Executive Director briefed the Committee that the software was made accessible for submitting claims proposals w.e.f. 11.11.2012. The Network Hospitals were asked submit hard copies also simultaneously. Presently, NWHs have become familiar with uploading of claims proposals online. Therefore, the Executive Director felt that, there is no need for submission of hard copies as no complaints or irregularities are received from the beneficiaries.

After detailed discussion, the Committee decided to dispose with the manual copies of the claims proposals with a directions to NWH to preserve the manual copies for a period of 10 years.

(Action - Director, MM)

16. Implementation of Rajiv Arogya Bhagya Scheme

The Executive Director explained that the Government of Karnataka has sanctioned a new health Scheme called Rajiv Arogya Bhagya for the APL families of the State and designated SAST as the implementing authority of the Scheme.
He also informed the Committee that the meeting was conducted with the Network Hospitals on 13/12/2013 to discuss on the implementation of Rajiv Arogya Bhagya Scheme and the role of the Network Hospitals in this regard. The important requests of the hospitals are:

(a) to revise the existing package rates for BPL
(b) to allow hospitals to charge the investigations before admission (concessional rates) and they agree to refund once the beneficiary admitted
(c) to allow hospitals to charge the rates prevailing with them for availing semi-special and special wards as well as superior implants, prosthesis etc.

The Executive Committee after detailed discussions decided ;

a) not to revise the existing rates now (the consultation process can continue as it is prevailing)
b) to fix reasonable rates for investigations and agreed to the proposal of collecting before admission and return later.
c) to follow CGHS module/collect prevailing rates of hospitals and arrive at a common rate for those beneficiaries willing to avail special service/superior facilities.
d) to work out a logo for Rajiv Arogya Bhagya Scheme and also to prepare for the launching of the same.

(Action - Director, Operations)


The Executive Director explained the Committee that M/s. FHPL (for Belgaum) and M/s. AHRL are functioning as the ISA for Gulbarga, Bangalore & Mysore Divisions presently and their contract period is coming to an end by 07/06/2014. Permission was sought to invite tenders.

In view of the launching of "Rajiv Arogya Bhagya" Scheme sanctioned by Government of Karnataka, the following actions to be taken at Trust level;

- A customized software and the services of an ISA is required for the implementation of Rajiv Arogya Bhagya Scheme.
- It is suggested that the existing ISA may assist to perform for the new Scheme also by negotiating suitable cost.

The proposal for approving the following subject is placed before the Executive Committee for suitable decision;
To call for tenders to position ISA for both Vajpayee Arogyashree and Rajiv Arogya Bhagya Schemes.
To decide whether to allow the existing ISA to function for RAB also, till a new ISA is positioned.
To get the customization of the software with the service provider.

After detailed discussion, the Committee approved for (i) calling of tenders under KTPP Act by following due procedure (ii) to negotiate with M/s. AHRL to function as ISA for RAB and (iii) to get customization of the software.

(Action - Director, Operations)

18. Outsourcing of digitization of files

The Executive Director briefed the Committee that in 16th EC meeting approval is sought for purchasing a new scanner for digitization of records. Based on the experience of our staff entrusted for the digitizing records, a Committee was constituted to go into the opinion of outsourcing or doing in house. The Committee suggested that instead of purchasing a new scanner, it is preferable to get work done from out sourcing agency which would work out cheaper. Accordingly, tender was floated through e-portal on 1/10/2013 and after following due procedures M/s. JIL Information Technology Limited was the least who have quoted 0.44 paise per page (Taxes extra). Accordingly, work order is issued to M/s. JIL Information Technology Limited and expected to be completed in 4 months.

The Committee ratified the action taken.

Additional Subjects

1. National Programme for Prevention and Control of Cancer, Diabetics, Cardio Vascular Diseases and Stroke

The Executive Director briefed the Committee that the similar programme is being implemented as a pilot project for 5 districts for oncology cases for BPL card holders under NRHM, NPCDCSP. An attempt was made to compare the beneficiaries located under VAS and NPCDCS for possible duplication. As such 9 cases noticed in Malnad Cancer Institute, Shimoga where the money is claimed from both the schemes. He also informed the Committee that the beneficiaries identified under NPCDCS could be got treated from VAS empanelled hospitals and the amount be remitted to VAS Account only.
After detailed discussion, the Committee approved the beneficiaries identified under NPCDCS could be treated under VAS and the amount be remitted to SAST.

2. **Intending to conduct three days training program on Implementation of NABH standards for Network hospitals at Bangalore**

The Executive Director explained the Committee that NABH- National Accreditation Board for Hospitals & Healthcare Providers (NABH) is a constituent Board of Quality Council of India and has agreed to conduct a 3 days programme in Bangalore which will benefit our empanelled hospitals in getting NABH accreditation and would help in getting better treatment to VAS beneficiaries. He also informed that the cost of organizing will be shared between SAST and hospitals.

The Committee appreciated the efforts.  

(Shopping List - Director, MM)

3. **Permitting Super specialists and specialists in State Government Service (both Medical Education & Health & Family Welfare) to process the preauthorizations & claims of SAST(VAS).**

The Executive Director briefed the Committee that in view of introduction of Rajiv Arogya Bhagya Scheme(RAB) for APL Families, there is shortage of qualified specialists and super specialists to process online preauthorization & claims at SAST. He informed that such online process does not require any physical presence of such Specialists at SAST. In this context, it is proposed to process the preauthorization & claims of SAST Online with the services of Super specialists and specialists in State Government Service (both Medical Education & Health & Family Welfare). It was also informed that the honorarium presently paid to the concerned professionals processing the preauth & claims of SAST may be allowed for the Super specialists and specialists in State Government Service (both Medical Education & Health & Family Welfare) also.

After detailed discussion, the Committee approved to avail the services Super specialists and specialists in State Government Service (both Medical Education & Health & Family Welfare) and to pay the honorarium presently paid to the concerned professionals processing the preauth & claims of SAST.
4. Inclusion of new procedures and permission for paediatric surgeons to do procedures included under Neurosurgery

The Executive Director briefed the Committee that the Trust has received representations from many stake holders to include or revise the procedure packages under Neuro Surgery, Cardiology and paediatric Surgery. In view of this, the proposed additional procedures were listed and placed before the EC for approval.

The Committee suggested to bring the subject before EC with recommendations of the team of experts.

(Action - Director, MM)

5. **Administration of Chemotherapy for Gynecology patients under VAS**

The Executive Director briefed the Committee about the request of Director, KIDWAI wherein he has sought SAST to take policy decisions on allowing surgeon to administer chemotherapy in the light of the decision of the Supreme Court which reads as;

"Engaging a specialist when available is obligatory"

Subject was discussed in detail and Executive Committee decided not to go against the decision of the Supreme Court.

(Action - Director, MM)

(Proceedings approved by
the Chairman, SAST/
Principal Secretary, H&FW Dept)

Sd/-
(M.MADAN GOPAL)
Principal Secretary to Govt. Health &
Family Welfare Dept. & Chairman,
Suvarna Arogya Suraksha Trust

*COPY*

Executive Director
Suvarna Arogya Suraksha Trust
Bangalore

Date: 23/12/2013

Copy to:

1. The Principal Secretary to Government, Health & Family Welfare Department & Chairman of Suvarna Arogya Suraksha Trust Vikasa Soudha, Bangalore.
2. The Secretary to Government (Exp.), Finance Department, Vidhana Soudha, Bangalore.
3. The Principal Secretary to Government, Medical Education Department, Vikasa Soudha, Bangalore.
5. The Mission Director, National Rural Health Mission/Project Administrator, KHSDRP, Sheshadri Road Bangalore.
6. The Director Health & Family Welfare Services & Vice Chairperson of Executive Committee, Ananda Rao Circle Bangalore.
7. Dr. K.V. Raju, Professor, ISEC, ISEC Quartets, Nagarabhavi Road, Bangalore.
8. Dr. H. Sudarshan, Karuna Trust, #686, 16th Main, 39th cross, 4th ‘T’ Block, Jayanagar, Bangalore-560 041.
9. All Officers, SAST, Bangalore.
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<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>Name of the Post</th>
<th>No. of Posts</th>
<th>Qualification</th>
<th>Experience</th>
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<td>Contract basis</td>
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