

# Minutes of the National consultation on setting up of National eHealth Authority (NeHA) held on 04th April, 2016

*Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW),  
Government of India*

Place: AIIMS Board Room, New Delhi

Time: 10:00 A.M.

## **National Consultation on National eHealth Authority (NeHA)**

**Held on 4th April, 2016**

### **Minutes of Meeting**

A National Consultation on *National eHealth Authority* (NeHA) was held under the chairmanship of Secretary (HFW) on 4<sup>th</sup> April, 2016 at AIIMS, New Delhi as per agenda given in **Annexure 1**. Senior Officers from Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW), DeitY and representatives from more than 23 States attended the meeting. There were also representatives from the World Health Organisation (WHO), Association bodies (IMA, FICCI, NATHEALTH and NASSCOM), private healthcare providers and healthcare IT experts along with vendors participated in the meeting. List of participants is at **Annexure – 2**.

### **Meeting Proceedings**

The national level meeting started at 10.00 A.M. with felicitation of guests with flower bouquets followed by Shri Sunil Sharma, Joint Secretary(eGov) giving a welcome address with a brief introduction to the attendees about the Vision and Goals of **National eHealth Authority (NeHA)**.

### **Important Points discussed in the meeting:-**

1. **Shri Bhanu Pratap Sharma, Secretary (HFW)** suggested putting all modules on cloud and mentioned that such work is already going on. He said that a connected platform is being created which will be ready by June 2016. He also said that by this year end, an EHR standard system would be ready. He mentioned that NeHA will look on the overall policy, on how IT can be clubbed with Healthcare Systems along with MCTS and HMIS.

He mentioned that nowadays, we have many mobile health applications which are successfully using Information Technology to monitor many diseases. He emphasized that NeHA will be an important body and it will look into overall policy standards to bring IT and health care together.

2. **Dr. Aruna Sharma, Secretary (DeitY)** emphasized on the setting up of a controlling body which directs hospitals across the country to maintain their patients health records in standardized electronic format. She also said that appropriate IT management systems need to be developed and put in place which can take care of the patients. She said that DeitY is willing to support the MoHFW in all possible ways for achieving Digital Health.
3. **Shri C.K. Mishra, AS & MD** mentioned that the Indian healthcare system is very complex system and technology is the only way to fill the existing gaps between the patients and the medical system. He mentioned about three major challenges in health sector: Making health facility accessible, affordable and maintain the quality of service.

He also said that technology is a good supplement for Human resource and knowledge and will play a big role in coming future in the Healthcare domain. In order to handle critical factor, *i.e.*, management of Healthcare in our country, he further emphasized the need to have strong IT systems in place.

4. **Shri Sunil Sharma JS (eGov)** said that we need to encourage EHR creation across the country. There is need to create a unique code in order to maintain online medical record for each person in India. He highlighted that there are over 30 countries who are building robust laws and structures for adoption of EHR standards. He then emphasized that with the goal of development of EHR standards, the suggestions from participants are being considered for inclusion.

NeHA is proposed to be set up to specify standards, regulate and promote IT initiatives in health domain and establish eHealth systems for enabling inter-operability of data across hospitals.

5. **Prof. M.C. Mishra (Director, AIIMS)** said that nowadays patients all over the country are generally misusing antibiotics by taking antibiotics without consultation from doctors. He then mentioned about existing system in place at AIIMS which enables to track antibiotic usage by the patients undergoing treatment at AIIMS. With such system in place, they were able to bring down misuse of antibiotics.

He also said that lots of opportunities in collating the EHR records exist in India these days and interoperability of EHR can lead to tremendous time & cost savings for both patients and the health set-ups. He encouraged the use of EHR systems with necessary technology for the benefit of people in long run.

6. **Shri K.B. Agarwal, AS (eGov)**, mentioned the first issue that needs to be addressed is the absence of Aadhaar numbers across the nation. He said that unless we also have unique identifiers for each Health facility as well in place, we cannot move forward successfully.

He emphasized for making the whole system interoperable and also mentioned that a National Identification Number (NIN) process has been started wherein all government run health facilities will be assigned a unique identification number. He suggested that EHR in a standard format should be developed and deployed throughout the country by providing an enabling environment.

He said about an upcoming technology ó Internet of Things (IoT) should be made available at the hospital level. He also mentioned that National Law School of India University from Bengaluru has been looped in to form a policy and legal framework.

7. **Dr. Rajesh Narwal (WHO, India)** mentioned about the basic supporting pillars of Healthcare and role of ICT in providing access of quality healthcare to everybody. For this ICT can be a key enabler. He emphasized that critical gap of human resources need to be

filled up at the first level. Coming to numbers, he pointed out that there are more than 100 crores of people in India and thus there is strong need for integration between the existing as well as newly developed health systems.

On Indian Healthcare System he said that we need to understand and develop a unique model of our own which suits our country's population. He also emphasized on the need for interoperability between healthcare systems across the country for a seamless transition between government and private healthcare providers.

8. **Shri Sunil Sharma, JS (eGov)** mentioned about standard set up for achieving interoperability. He mentioned that first level of consultation in this matter was done in March 2016. Approach and policy framework and policy framework needs to be evolved for making use of ICT in the Health sector. He specifically emphasized for development of interoperable mechanism between states and different health facilities.

9. **Prof. S.N. Sarbadhikari, Project Director, CHI** presented the Concept Note outlining the Aim, Vision and Goal of NeHA:

**Aim:** The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) is taking various initiatives in the areas related to use of ICT (Information and Communications Technology) in Healthcare. In order to guide and support India's journey in eHealth and consequent realization of benefits of ICT intervention in Health sector in an orderly way, the Ministry proposes to set up National eHealth Authority (NeHA) as a statutory body for promotional, regulatory and standards related roles.

**Vision:** Attainment of high quality health services for citizen through cost-effective and secure use of information and communication technologies in health and health-related fields.

**Goal:** To ensure development and promotion of eHealth ecosystem in India for enabling the organization, management and provision of effective people-centric health services to all in an efficient, cost effective and transparent manner.

Prof. Sarbadhikari mentioned that till 2015, we had received 500 comments and suggestions on NeHA, which were very useful for further improvement. He also explained about National eHealth policy for health adoption in the country which includes data management, privacy and security, policy guidelines for health records of patients visiting the health facilities.

10. **Dr. Rajesh Narwal (WHO)** discussed on how eHealth and ICT is transforming healthcare domain and mentioned that in 2005, there were 51 terms associated with eHealth as per WHO records. He said that scope of eHealth needs to be broadened i.e. for the domains which fall under eHealth. Dr. Narwal also discussed importance of critical inputs like

political & financial support, inter- departmental cooperation and collaboration between states for functioning of regulatory body.

11. **Shri Rajendra Pratap Gupta** gave suggestions on standardization of EHR at hospitals, state and micro level. He said nation-wide guidelines should be in place for EHR standards. He also gave an important suggestion on renaming National eHealth Authority to "**National Digital Health Authority**", to keep in line with "Digital India" and also to broaden the scope of the Authority, so that mHealth and Tele-Health also could be included in its purview.
12. **Mr. B S Bedi, Advisor - CDAC** discussed about user acceptability of EHR. He emphasized that for an EHR system to run successfully, it should be made user friendly so as to be acceptable to Doctors / paramedics who would be main operators / users.
13. **Ms. Manisha Mantri, Pune** explained how ICT can help effectively in storing, recording and receiving the sharable and transferable medical records. She briefed the participants on EHR standards, structured terminology, coding systems, Healthcare information exchange, security, privacy and emphasized much on data security and privacy along with making the whole system on EHR.
14. During the discussion several delegates put forth their views. **Shri K. B. Agarwal, AS (eGov.) MoHFW** summarized the discussion points observing that there has been consensus amongst the participants on the proposal for creation of the National e-Health Authority (NeHA) which would lay and regulate standards in the e-Health domain and **catalyze** and promote e-Health initiatives in the country.
15. Presentations of eHealth applications were given by four States (Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, and, Kerala). The Panel was chaired by Shri Sunil Sharma, JS (eGov), MoHFW and panellists were: i) Shri Sunil Bhushan, STD (NIC), (ii) Shri Srinivasan Ramakrishnan, Advisor, NISG and (iii) Shri Jitendra Arora, Director (eGov), MoHFW.

States highlighted the challenges being faced by them during carrying out eHealth initiatives. They echoed the sentiments that improved healthcare delivery can be improved substantially by providing medical personnel with better access to data, faster data retrieval and higher quality of data.

16. The meeting evolved with Vote of Thanks delivered by Shri Ankit Tripathi, Additional Director, CHI.

## **Annexure 1: Meeting Schedule**

Registration		10:00 ó 10:30
Welcome Address	Shri Sunil Sharma, JS (eGov), MoHFW	10:30 ó 10:40
Address	Shri C. K. Mishra, AS&MD, MoHFW	10:40 ó 10:50
Address	Dr. Aruna Sharma, Secretary, DeitY	10:50 ó 11:00
Keynote Address	Shri B. P. Sharma, Secretary (HFW), MoHFW	11:00 ó 11:10
Presidential Address	Shri J.P. Nadda, Honøble Union Health and Family Welfare Minister	11:10 ó 11:25
<b>Tea Break</b>		<b>11:25 ó 11:40</b>
Presentation on: - Concept Note of NeHA - Standards in Health Informatics	(i) Prof. S. N. Sarbadhikari, Project Director, CHI (ii) Representative of iNRC (CDAC, PUNE)	11:40 ó 11:50 11:50 ó 12:00
Panel discussion and stakeholder consultation on NeHA : - Role - Structure - Road Map	Panel Chair : Shri K. B. Agarwal, Addl. Secretary(F&D), MoHFW <u>Panel members:</u> (i)Shri Sunil Sharma, JS (eGov), MoHFW (ii)Prof S. N. Sarbadhikari, Project Director, CHI (iii)Representative, WHO India (iv) Representative, DeitY (v) Representative, NISG (vi) Shri B. S. Bedi, Advisor- CDAC	12:00 ó 14:00
<b>Lunch</b>		<b>14:00 - 14:30</b>
Experiences of States in implementation of Hospital Information System (HIS) and Interoperability of EHR	Presentation by States (Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala) Panel Chair: a. Shri Manoj Jhalani, JS(Policy), MoHFW b. Shri Sunil Sharma, JS (eGov), MoHFW	14:30 - 16:00
Vote of Thanks	Shri Ankit Tripathi, Additional Director, CHI	16:00

**Annexure 2 : List of Attendees**

S.No.	NAME	DESIGNATION	ORGANISATION / STATE
1.	Shri B.P. Sharma	Secretary (H&FW)	MoHFW, New Delhi
2.	Dr. Aruna Sharma	Secretary , DeitY	MCIT, New Delhi
3.	Shri C K Mishra	AS & MD (NHM)	MoHFW, New Delhi
4.	Shri K B Agarwal	Addl Secy (F and D)	MoHFW, New Delhi
5.	Prof. M. C. Misra	Director, AIIMS	New Delhi
6.	Dr. B D Athani	Spl. DGHS	MoHFW, New Delhi
7.	Shri Sunil Sharma	JS (e-Gov) MoHFW	MoHFW, New Delhi
8.	Dr. Om Prakash	Principal Secretary	Uttarakhand
9.	Shri Jitendra Arora	Director (e-Gov)	MoHFW, New Delhi
10.	Dr. K K Agarwal	Hony. Secy. General	IMA HQrs., New Delhi
11.	Shri Rajendra Pratap Gupta	Policy Advisor	Mumbai
12.	Dr. Rajesh Narwal	Technical Officer- Health Systems Stewardship & Regulations	WHO (India)
13.	Shri B.S. Bedi	Advisor	C-DAC, Pune
14.	Shri S. Ramakrishnan	Advisor	NISG, New Delhi
15.	Shri Sudhir Saxena	Vice President	NISG, New Delhi
16.	Dr. Jayanta K Das	Director	NIHFW, New Delhi
17.	Shri Rajesh Gera	DDG	NIC, New Delhi
18.	Prof. S.N Sarbadhikari	Project Director, CHI	NIHFW, New Delhi
19.	Dr. S. B. Bhattacharyya	Head- Health Informatics	TCS
20.	Shri Sunil Kumar	Senior Technical Director	NIC, New Delhi
21.	Mrs. Manisha Mantri	iNRC, C- DAC	Pune
22.	Dr. Surya Bali	Nodal officer	Madhya Pradesh
23.	Dr. Karan Vir Singh	Apollo Hospitals	New Delhi
24.	Mr. Arvind Shivaramakrisnan	Apollo Hospitals	Hyderabad
25.	Shri Anjan bose	NatHealth	New Delhi
26.	Shri Ankit Tripathi	Addl Director, CHI	New Delhi
27.	Shri Gaurav Sharma	Deputy Director, CHI	New Delhi
28.	Dr. Sanjay Gupta	Nodal Officer, CHI	NIHFW
29.	Dr. J.K. Shivdasani	Asst. Nodal Officer, CHI	NIHFW
30.	Dr. C. Jayan	Joint director - e-health	Kerala
31.	Smt. Sowjanya	Mission Director, NHM	Karnataka
32.	Shri Sandeep Chopra	Scientist	NIC, New Delhi
33.	Dr. Subodh	Head Surgery	AIIMS, New Delhi
34.	Shri Ajay Rampal	STD, NIC	New Delhi
35.	Shri B.B. Pawar	Deputy Director	Maharashtra

36.	Shri Sameer K. Sinha	Commissioner & Secretary Health Department	Assam
37.	Dr. N.V. Kamatt	Pr. Advisor	IMA (HQ)
38.	Dr. Pratap Kumar Sahu	NHSRC	
39.	Dr. UC Sinha		Jharkhand
40.	Shri B K. Datta	DS.	MoHFW, New Delhi
41.	Shri Abhishek Jain	Manager- HLS	Wipro
42.	Shri Amit Kumar	AD (e-Gov)	MoHFW, New Delhi
43.	Dr. K. H. Assam		
44.	Sm. Garima Chandak		
45.	Dr. M.S. Chalga	ICMR	
46.	Dr. Sunil Srivastava	DG (MH)	Uttar Pradesh
47.	Dr. Meenakshi		
48.	Shri Amarjeet Singh	Director	DGHS
49.	Dr. M.P. Sharma		Govt. of Haryana
50.	Mr. Anirudh Sen	FICCI	New Delhi
51.	Dr. A. K. Chaudhary	AD. IT	Lucknow
52.	Shri Sunil Gupta	HMIS - IT	Uttar Pradesh
53.	Dr. M.P. Sharma	DGHS Office	Haryana
54.	Dr. Vishwaajeet Singh	DGHS Office	Haryana
55.	Shri Rajesh Sihag	DGHS Office	Haryana
56.	Dr. Neeraj Kharwal	MD, NHM	Uttar Pradesh
57.	Dr. Neeta Kumar	MBBS. MD, ICMR	
58.	Major Sandeep Sharma	Ministry of Defense; IAMI	New Delhi
59.	Lt. Ankur Gupta	AIIMS; IAMI	New Delhi
60.	Shri Ashish Sharma	MoHFW	New Delhi
61.	Dr. N.V. Kamatt		
62.	Dr. Monika Rana	Addl. Secretary GNGT	
63.	Shri Piyush Chaturvedi	Sr. Manager	Mitra India Ltd.
64.	Sm. Vibha Mehra	Head, BD	Wipro
65.	Shri Surinder Pal		
66.	Mr. Harish		
67.	Shri Debasis Bose		West Bengal
68.	Dr. Rajesh Guleri		
69.	Dr. D.K. Pandu		
70.	Shri V.K. Srivastava		
71.	Dr. Senthil Kumar		Tamil Nadu
72.	Shri Manojit Bose		
73.	Shri RC Rawat		Rajasthan
74.	Shri Sumesh Singh		Rajasthan
75.	Shri C.S. Gururani		



76.	Shri Tarun Goyal		
77.	Dr. RM Jotkar		
78.	Dr. BD Pawar		
79.	Dr. C. Murli K. Kumar	Advisor Health	Niti Ayog
80.	Dr. Ritesh Mondal		Andaman & Nicobar
81.	Dr. Probin Chandra Arambam	Deputy Director of Health	Manipur
82.	Dr. Ahanthem Victor Singh	Block HMIS officer	Manipur
83.	Shri B.B. Mittal	Dy. Director - Rural Health	Gujarat
84.	Mr. Shahnawaz Khan Rathod	Project officer - IT	Gujarat
85.	Dr. Ganesh	Nodal officer	Karnataka
86.	Shri Suren Kumar	AIIMS ó Technical Staff	New Delhi
87.	Shri M. Harish	AIIMS ó Technical Staff	New Delhi
88.	Shri Bobby Kumar	AIIMS ó Technical Staff	New Delhi
89.	Dr. D.K. Pandu	TLSHSRC, NHM	Odisha
90.	Dr. Sampooran Singh	DHS	Chandigarh, Punjab
91.	Mr. Samuel Lalhmingmawia,	MIS Manager	Mizoram
92.	Mr. Renbur L. Himo		Mizoram
93.	Sm. Rajbala	Telemedicine AIIMS	New Delhi
94.	Dr. Anita Bhutia	DD/ RCH	Sikkim
95.	Shri K. Srinivas Subramanyam	STC. NHM	Chhattisgarh
96.	Dr. M. Srinivas Rao	State program officer, NHM	Telangana
97.	Shri B. Satyanarayan	IT - department	Telangana
98.	Dr. K. Ravi Krishna Sharma	IIHFW	Telangana
99.	Dr. Amit Sukla	Dy. Director - Rural health	MG education
100.	Mrs. Anand Sharma	Consultant	Uttarakhand
101.	Ms. Charu khattar	DA ( e- gov)	Delhi
102.	Dr. Salim	Director Health	VISK
103.	Smt. Palak VS		
104.	Dr. Suha	Jharkhand	
105.	Shri Pankaj Rahi	Chandigarh	
106.	Dr. Anurupa Roy	Associate Consultant	MoHFW, New Delhi
107.	Mr. Saurabh Kumar	Associate Consultant	NIHFW, New Delhi

108.	Ms. Indu Bala	Associate Consultant	MoHFW, New Delhi
109.	Mr. Biju Raj	Associate Consultant	MoHFW, New Delhi
110.	Dr. J Panday	CHI	NIHFW, New Delhi
111.	Dr. Eswar Das	CHI	NIHFW, New Delhi
112.	Dr. M Alam Khan	CHI	NIHFW, New Delhi
113.	Dr. S Gupta	CHI	NIHFW, New Delhi
114.	Dr. A Rastogi	CHI	NIHFW, New Delhi
115.	Ms. Ginny Bansal	CHI	NIHFW, New Delhi
116.	Ms. Antika Jain	CHI	NIHFW, New Delhi
117.	Ms. Richa Verma	CHI	NIHFW, New Delhi
118.	Ms. Parul	CHI	NIHFW, New Delhi
119.	Mr. Yunus	CHI	NIHFW, New Delhi
120.	Mr. Vijay Krishan	CHI	NIHFW, New Delhi