8th May, 2015

Subject: Minutes of the review meeting of the National Health Portal held on Wednesday, 20th April, 2015 at Nirman Bhavan

A review meeting for the activities of the National Health Portal (NHP) was held under the chairmanship of Shri. Bhanu Pratap Sharma, Secretary (Health and Family Welfare) at Nirman Bhavan on 20th April 2015.

The minutes of the meeting are attached.

This has approval of the Chairperson.

Snsarbadhikari

[Prof. S N Sarbadhikari]
Project Director, CHI of NHP
Member-Secretary, SCNHP
Mobile: (+91) 9717669574

Subject: Minutes of the meeting on the National Health Portal (NHP) held on 20th April 2015 at Nirman Bhavan

A meeting was held under the chairmanship of Shri. Bhanu Pratap Sharma, Secretary (Health and Family Welfare) on 20th April 2015 at 12:00 noon in Room No. 155-A, Nirman Bhawan to review the activities of National Health Portal (NHP). The list of participants is mentioned in Annexure-I.

2. Prof. N.K. Ganguly, Chairman, SCNHP welcomed the participants and briefed them about the origin of the National Health Portal (NHP) from the National Knowledge Commission (NKC) recommendations. He suggested that the NHP needs to be autonomous to serve its purpose with adequate staff strength and resources. It will require analytic capabilities for clinical / epidemiological data so that the Government can get those information quickly instead of having to rely on private companies to provide data analytics for necessary public health policy making. It must provide scientific evidence to the MoHFW to enable appropriate policymaking and action. At this stage, when NHP has been in existence for over last 3 years, it will be prudent to restructure it as an autonomous society / body [*Centre for Health Informatics (CHI)*] that will set goals, structure and budget heads in order to attract appropriately talented human resources. He further suggested that NHP must have links with the other state portals and other websites of the MoHFW and suggested that the various programs of MoHFW need to be linked with national and international directories and updated regularly for having a global relevance.

3. Shri N B Dhal, JS (eGov), MoHFW, suggested that the NHP should be citizen-centric and may be modeled on the lines of the National Library of Medicine of the USA. He suggested that CHI may explore the possibility of engaging Knowledge Partner(s) for content development. He further mentioned that CHI may be the secretariat for the proposed National eHealth Authority (NeHA), the Concept Note for which is currently in public domain inviting feedback / suggestions. An appropriate governance structure needs to be established in this regard.

4. Shri B P Sharma, Secretary (H&FW), appreciated the idea of the CHI acting as the Secretariat of the proposed NeHA. He suggested the SCNHP to clearly define annual targets along with monitoring and evaluation parameters. He also suggested that NHP may explore options and plan accordingly to make itself self-sustaining over a period of time.

5. Dr. Jagdish Prasad, DGHS, said that the NHP has to mature further and has to become self-sustainable over a period of time.

6. Prof. J. K Das, Director, NIHFW, said that so far NIHFW has provided administrative support to the NHP and now it may be made autonomous since it is expanding in its activities and scale.

7. Dr. B V Adkoli, Content Manager, NHP explained the process of validation of content in the NHP, which is through an Ad-hoc Content Committee.

8. Prof. S N Sarbadhikari, PD, CHI, made a presentation on the updates of NHP before the participants and informed that new content has been added, validated and translated in five regional languages (Hindi, Tamil, Guajarati, Punjabi and Bangla). He informed that interactive voice scripts (computer to human interactivity based scripts) were being developed for NHP Voice portal (With a toll free number 1800-180-1104) developed to reach remote areas (without Internet connectivity) and to increase the access of NHP for persons with visual disability. He also informed the participants that till date the NHP had got about 35000 unique visitors. There is a need to undertake various measures to create awareness about NHP.

9. Mr. Suresh Kochattil, Apollo Hospitals, Hyderabad, suggested that validated content may also be sought from private medical educational institutes and the Regional Knowledge Centres (as proposed in the DPR) may be set up gradually to gather specific local / regional content.

10. Prof. S.K. Mishra, SGPGI, Lucknow, endorsed the idea of involvement with private health institutions for validated content and suggested that professionally validated content may also be sought from respective subject experts on a need basis.

11. Mr. B. S. Bedi, Advisor, Health Informatics, CDAC, suggested that NHP, apart from providing health related information to the population and creating awareness about diseases and health programs, could also act as an EHR Registry and help in mining clinical data for health research.

12. The following decisions were taken after detailed discussions:

    i) Dr. Jadish Prasad, DGHS, will be the Chairman of the Content Committee that will be responsible to validate the content of NHP.

    ii) The unspent balance of Rs. 3.06 Crores (as on 31/03/2015) may be revalidated by MoHFW for the period till 14/11/15 (*viz.*, till the end of the 2-year pilot project phase).

    iii) Prof. S. N. Sarbadhikari should submit a revised proposal outlining clearly the year wise targets / goals to be achieved over the next five years by NHP along with all the necessary resource requirements to MoHFW for consideration. The plan should also incorporate aspects to make NHP self-sustaining over a period.

    iv) All necessary documents (*e.g.*, by laws including the composition of the Governing Body, Management Committee, etc.) for registering the *Centre for Health Informatics (CHI)* under Societies Registration Act, should be prepared and submitted by Prof. S. N. Sarbadhikari, to the MoHFW for further necessary action.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the chair and the participants.

Annexure-I

List of Participants

1. Mr. B P Sharma, Secretary, H & FW, MoHFW
2. Prof. N. K. Ganguly, Chairman, SCNHP
3. Dr. Jagdish Prasad, DGHS, MoHFW
4. Mr. N B Dhal, Joint Secretary (eGov), MoHFW
5. Mr.Jitendra Arora, Director (eGov), MoHFW
6. Prof. J. K. Das, Director, NIHFW
7. Prof. S K Mishra, SGPGI, Lucknow
8. Mr. Suresh Kochattil, Apollo Hospitals, Hyderabad
9. Prof. S N Sarbadhikari, Member-Secretary, SCNHP; PD, CHI
10. Dr. B V Adkoli, Content Manager, NHP
11. Mr. B S Bedi, Advisor, C-DAC
12. Dr. Sanjay Gupta, Nodal officer, CHI, NIHFW
13. Ms.Sunita Dhaundiyal, US, (eGov), MoHFW
14. Mr. Amit Kumar, Asst. Director, MoHFW,
15. Mr.Ankit Tripathi, Additional Director, CHI
16. Mr.Gaurav Sharma, Deputy Director, CHI
17. Mr.Chandrasen Srivastava, PL, ePMU, MoHFW
18. Mr. Nikhil Melhotra, ePMU, MoHFW