

Visit Note to Kurseong Sub Divisional Hospital

Myself visited Kurseong Sub Divisional Hospital on Oct 1, 2022. The Hospital is headed by Dr. A. Mondal, the Superintendent. At present, the hospital has an actual strength of 8 GDMO (5 vacancies), 2 Physician (1 vacancy) which is urgently required to be filled up, 1 G.S., no Ortho surgeon, 3 Pediatrician, Skin – 0, Psychiatry – 0, Pathologist – 1, Radiologist – 1, Biochemist – 1, ENT-I, Gynae – 6, M.O. Chest – 0, Ophthalmologist – 2, Anesthetist – 2, Dental Surgeon – 1. H.D.U. – 2 (1 urgently required). The hospital provides Ambulance services. Total number of wards 10. Male Ward has 17 beds and Female equal number of beds. Nursing staff – 64 out of which 10 are Sister in - Charge. One is Nursing Superintendent & another Deputy Nursing Superintendent. There is one H.D.U. with 6 beds. No shortage of oxygen cylinders. However, there is no facility for lift or Ramps for patients. There are 70 group D staff which is quite insufficient for the hospital. All Post of stretcher bearers are vacant.

2. Following deficiencies were noted during the visit against which recommendations are noted.

(a) The male / female wards are overcrowded, sharing of beds observed. Patients were not provided with hospital gowns. They were wearing home clothes which are extremely unhygienic & dirty. Bed linens are not washed regularly making atmosphere unclean. Also, floors are not washed with disinfectants on a regular basis. These points needs to be addressed specially supply of hospital gowns to patients & regular changing of linens.

(b) It was observed that wards did not have T.V. or newspaper. These facilities would definitely provide entertainment and keep morale of patients high.

(c) Although Diet is being supplied regularly, there is no Dietician. Therefore, it is extremely difficult to scientifically prescribe diet for the patients. It is recommended that a Dietician be posted if not at least on contractual basis.

(d) There is no Cardiologist although there is a H.D.U. It is recommended that a Cardiologist or a Critical Care Specialist be posted along with facilities for ECHO – CARDIOGRAPHY.

(e) Regarding investigation facilities one ECG, USG & X– Ray are available. However, this x-ray is very old. It is recommended that one Digital X-Ray machine be installed for better investigation since it is a Sub-divisional Hospital.

(f) There is no shortage of oxygen cylinder. It is suggested / Recommended that an Oxygen plant be installed.

(g) For blood tests one Pathologist & one semi – auto analyzer are available. Basic blood tests including blood counts are done here. However, no high level test including blood serum analysis can be done. Since a H.D.U. is attached to this hospital it is essential to upgrade the lab facilities so that blood tests related to heart diseases, T.B. Stroke etc. could be conducted without referring it outside.

(h) I found that there is an acute problem of shifting patients from ground floor to wards, which are located upstairs. There is no lift, ramp & stretcher bearer. This is causing immense problem to the patients. It is recommended that these three aspects should be addressed adequately.

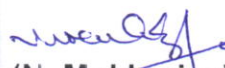
(i) Facilities at the Emergency Care are not up to the mark. It does not have any dedicated X-ray, ECG machine, which are extremely essential for first-aid to emergency patients. Thus it is difficult to properly diagnose accident victims or stroke victims. Upgradation of Emergency Care is essential including increasing number of beds to at least 5 / 10 instead of present 1/2.

(j) Security aspect, supply of medicine & Diet were reported to be normal by the Hospital Superintendent.

These recommendations are essential to reduce referrals which currently stand at nearby 30% per month.

Special Secretary, WBHRC is directed to send an authenticated copy of this recommendation to Principal Secretary, Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of West Bengal with copy to District Magistrate, Darjeeling, CMOH, Darjeeling and Superintendent, Kurseong S.D. Hospital. Principal Secretary, Health & Family Welfare to submit an Action Taken Report to Commission within 3 months.

Ld. Registrar to upload in WBHRC Website.


(N. Mukherjee) 12/10/2022
Member,

West Bengal Human Rights Commission