

VISIT NOTE TO ALIPURDUAR DISTRICT HOSPITAL ON OCT.4 2022.

1. Visited District Hospital, Alipurduars on Oct.4, 2022. The Superintendent of the Hospital is Dr. Chinmoy Burman. There are a total of 70 nos. of GDMOs of which 3 are females (in Gyane Department). The break-up is, 3 general surgeons, 3 orthopaedic surgeons, 2 ophthalmologists, 3 ENT, 5 medicine nos., 7 Gynecologists (1 female/6 male). 4 pediatric doctors. There is no cardiologist, no nephrologist, neurologist, oncologist or psychiatrist, physiotherapist. Total nursing staff available is 154 and there are 15 vacancies. Out of this nursing staff 1 is nursing superintendent and 3 Deputy Nursing Superintendents. There is shortage in Gr-D, Sweeper, which needs to be filled up. The hospital is having a ramp and lift facilities for benefit of indoor patient. A, F.P. medicine shop is functional and medicine supplied free of cost to indoor patient.

The following deficiencies in the functioning of the district hospitals were noted and recommendations against each of them are set out.

- a) There are a total of 3 wards- Male (62) Female (61) Pediatric (50) Maternity (150) Isolation (15) SNCU (50) CCU (12) NRC (10). Apart from that there is a 6 bed HDU, a 28 bed SNU (for new born/natal

care). During visit it was found that both male/female wards are overcrowded. Large number of beds are placed in the verandah and several patients lying on floor. Even patients were seen sharing beds. Some dengue patients were sharing bed but mosquito nets were not placed on beds as a protective measure. It was also observed that patients were wearing home clothes which were very dirty. No hospital gowns were issued. Bed lines were not being changed Regularly which were emanating foul smell. No T.V.s were available in the wards for the entertainment of patients.

It is recommended that bed be changed periodically, patients be issued hospital gowns to avoid Cross-infections, and some arrangements for T.V. etc. be made for entertainment. No fixed visiting hours for relatives are being imposed as result bedsides were overcrowded. This aspect should be imposed with strictness.

b) Bed head tickets were not attached to beds. Therefore, it is quite difficult for a visiting M.O./ Inspecting Officer to ascertain condition of the patient. They have to be dependent on the sister-in-charge for producing such files. It is recommended that this aspect should be taken care so that transparency in treatment is known to patient – party as

well as to visiting doctors. Also, arrangement of periodic counseling by doctors/sister-in-charge, about the condition of patient to the patient – party be made so that there is more transparency.

c) The 12 bed HDU is functioning fairly satisfactorily although there is 1 doctor per shift & 2 technicians. Oxygen is readily available. Ventilators are also available. However, it is recommended that a Central monitoring unit be installed so that monitoring is improved. Also, there is non-availability of ECHO-Cardiography, sophisticated blood-serum testing for cardiac attack, critical care specialists and cardiologists. These are essential elements for HDU and if there are plans for up-gradation. Therefore, these recommendations be given due consideration.

d) For purposes of investigation, x-ray unit and CT scan 16 slice are available. These are very old instruments and need immediate up-gradation. There is no MRI unit available in ALIPURDUAR District Hospital. In fact, in the entire district no MRI is available either in

government or Private Sectors. Patients are referred to Cooch Behar MCH with very long waiting period. It is strongly recommended that MRI unit be opened for Alipurduar District Hospital which would benefit patients of entire district.

- e) This is the sole district hospital and there are dearth's of Private Hospital. In such a situation patients of oncology, Neuro Patients, have to be referred to higher grade hospitals. Further, Dialysis unit is being manned by technicians without supervision by a qualified doctor. This is not a correct situation and it is recommended that a qualified Nephrologist be posted in order to deal with such situations. Also, high-grade blood & serum test facilities, be introduced since it is the sole district hospital catering to over a population of approximately eight (8) lakhs. Population to doctor ratio is anywhere between 2-3% which is poor.

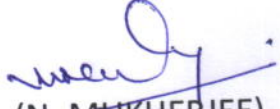
f) There is a problem about sweepers, group-'D' staff, scavengers, doms etc. it is recommended that this aspect be addressed properly in the interest of patients.

g) The SNU has 28 seats. It is in an A/C room with Cribs, UV light. Zero vaccine is being given to newborn. However, it was found that in one crib 4/5 newborns were being accommodate. It is strongly recommended that this practice should be avoided. Further, the Pediatric Ward is lacking in proper play room and playing facilities. This aspect should be looked into in order to improve facilities for children admitted for treatment.

Special Secretary, West Bengal Human Rights Commission is directed to send authenticated copy of this report to Principal Secretary Health & Family Welfare with copies to D.M. Alipurduars, and CMOH / Superintendent, Alipurduar District Hospital. They are directed to send an ATR within three (3) months.

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Ld. Register, West Bengal Human Rights Commission will upload the
report in WBHRC Website.


(N. MUKHERJEE)
Member, WBHRC.
12/10/2022