

EXTRACT OF MoU BETWEEN RC ECHS BANGALORE AND KARUNASHRAYA

An agreement made and entered into on this..... between the President of India, acting through Director, Regional Centre ECHS, Bangalore, for Ex Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme, (herein after called 'ECHS' which expression, unless excluded by or repugnant to the subject or context, shall include its successors -in-office and assigns) of the **first part**

AND

Mr...Gurmeet S Randhawa..... s/o Late Dr. G S Randhawa..... Managing Trustee Bangalore Hospice Trust the authorized signatory of Karunashraya, Bangalore Hospice Trust, Old Airport-Varthur Main Road, Kundanahalli Gate, Marathahalli, Bangalore-560037 (herein after called Karunashraya, which expression unless excluded by or repugnant to the subject or context, shall mean to include its legal representative, successors and permitted assigns) of the **second part**

WHEREAS

Karunashraya being a center of excellence in the field of Palliative care for end stage cancer diseases, has been approached by Regional Centre ECHS Bangalore with a requirement to extend their facilities on no cost basis (inpatient palliative care) to the ECHS members and their dependents (spouse, dependent children and parents) as a good will measure. Functionaries of both the institutions have deliberated relevant issues pertaining to this request and the following terms and condition are mutually agreed upon.

NOW THEREFORE THE PARTIES HEREBY AGREED TO AS FOLLOWS:

1. Free palliative treatment facilities will be offered by Karunashraya to all ECHS members and their dependents irrespective of their rank and their paying capacity for inpatient care.
2. These patients will be recommended for palliative care by relevant specialist at ECHS Empanelled Hospitals, approved for same by the Service medical/ Surgical Oncologist of Command Hospital, Air Force Bangalore (CHAFB) and evaluated by Specialist team at Karunashraya and accepted for inpatient care.
3. Regional Centre ECHS Bangalore will arrange for patient to be evaluated at Karunashraya in consultation with the parent ECHS Polyclinic of the patient.
4. On acceptance of the patient by Karunashraya for providing in patient palliative care, the same will be intimated to this Regional Centre by Karunashraya. Parent ECHS Polyclinic will arrange for conveying the message to the patient under direction of this RC.

5. Evaluation and acceptance of the ECHS beneficiary for providing inpatient palliative care will be guided solely by the terms and conditions of Karunashraya irrespective of any recommendations and approvals.
6. An understanding from the patient will be obtained by ECHS/Karunashraya that the patient has willingly accepted the option of being treated at Karunashraya and he/she accepts the risks involved during the course of treatment for self or dependent.
7. Lastly, it is the responsibility of ECHS officials to counsel all patients being referred to Karunashraya, that it is a privilege being extended to the ECHS beneficiaries in recognition of their services and it shall not be claimed as a right. All patients and their NOKs will be advised to behave in a manner befitting the dignity and decorum of Armed Forces and Karunashraya.

BRIEF ON KARUNASHRAYA HOSPICE

1. Karunashraya is a joint project of Indian Cancer Society (Karnataka Chapter) and Rotary Bangalore Indiranagar established to provide free-of-cost quality palliative care to advanced stage cancer patients who are beyond curative medical treatment. The Facility is located on the Old Airport-Varthur Main Road near the Kundalahalli Junction in Marathahalli, Bengaluru. The facility is spread over five acres and has 72 beds. The facility is self-contained to meet all the physical, psychological and spiritual needs of the patients.
2. **Documents for Admission.** The following would be required at the time of seeking admission: -
 - (a) Reports confirming advanced stage of cancer.
 - (b) Certificate from treating doctor/ hospital confirming patient not on any active curative treatment.
 - (c) Confirmation from the caregiver on his/her responsibility towards patient care.
 - (d) Reference Letter for admission.
 - (e) A copy of Adhar card.
3. **Admission Procedure.** Karunashraya provides palliative care only to terminally ill cancer patients. Care is provided either through admission at the facility or through home care. Patients desirous of admission are first assessed by the in-house medical team to ascertain that the finality of the treatment has reached. The assessment is done based on the medical documents, reports and recommendation of the hospital where the patient was undergoing treatment. Patients who require advanced life support are not admitted as the requisite facilities are not available at Karunashraya. Once a patient is accepted for admission, there is a registration process involving the relatives. Depending on the patient's needs and preferences,

and the professional advice of the medical team, the option between admitting the patient at the facility or providing palliative care through home-care is selected. Presently, Karunashraya has three home care teams, one is located at the facility in Marathahalli, while the other two are at Jayanagar and Kamanahalli. These teams provide palliative care within a 50 km radius. Each home care team consists of multidisciplinary nurses, a physiotherapist, a health assistant and a social worker for giving palliative care including counselling and non-curative treatment.

4. **Patient Management.** There are three main verticals that deal with the management of patients viz palliative care doctors / physiotherapists; nurses (care givers) and family counsellors.

(a) **Palliative Care Doctors / Physiotherapists.** There are six palliative care doctors and two physiotherapists in Karunashraya. Their primary role is to alleviate pain and other distressing symptoms of the patients. The facility is licensed to disperse medication, including pain relieving opiates.

(b) **Nurses (care-givers).** There are 100 nurses on strength with the aim of maintaining a 1:2 patient to nurse ratio. The nursing staff is especially competent in handling the intensive minute-to-minute physical requirements of the patients. The nurses undergo an in-house training of six months before being employed in the hospice as care-givers.

(c) **Counsellors.** There are six counsellors, headed by a Psycho-oncologist, to cater to the mental well-being of the patient. The counsellors also play an active role in assisting the patients with disposal of estates, legal matters and fulfilling the last-minute wishes/ desires of the patients. The counsellors also provide emotional, spiritual, social and logistic support to the patient's family.

5. **Voluntary Work.** Voluntary work is offered at Karunashraya by MNCs, educational institutions and individuals located in Bangalore. The voluntary work is co-ordinated by a dedicated PR team of Karunashraya. However, no direct contact is permitted between the volunteers and the patients. Volunteer work include assistance in the kitchen, preparation of medical kits, conduct of entertainment programs etc.

6. **Future Projects.** Karunashraya is in the process of opening a 110 bedded facility in Bhubaneswar. The soft launch is slated for Dec 23. A plan to open a similar facility in the North-East is also under deliberation.

7. **Staff Comments.** The services offered by Karunashraya, which is free of cost, would be significantly much better, both in quality and scope, as compared to what is currently on offer for palliative care of ECHS beneficiaries suffering from terminal stage cancer. The average occupancy is about 80-90 % and the average period of stay is about four eight weeks.