

## **A Contribution from Volunteers**

### **ECHS BENEFICIARIES**

#### **PRIORITY TREATMENT - DIRECT OPD**

#### **SPECIAL CATEGORY AND CRITICAL FOLLOW UP**

Initial version 23 Aug 2020 → Updated 18 May 2021

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### **References**

1. CO ECHS letter B/49770/AG/ECHS/POLICY dated 23 Jun 2017 & CO ECHS letter No B/49711-NewSmartCard/AG/ECHS dt 10 Aug 2018
2. CO ECHS letter CO ECHS letter B/49774/AG/ECHS/REFERRAL/2020 dated 20 May 2020
3. ECHS SOP dated 28 Sep 2018
4. DGAFMS, MOD letter 5515/Gen Comp/4E/DGAFMS/DG-3A dated 08 Aug 2019
5. This document has consolidated information from ECHS policy letter & documents. In case of any errors in this document or doubts, Policy letters shall be referred.
6. This is a contribution from Volunteers, to bring a Single Point of Reference to Beneficiaries.
7. In future, many Policy letters may be issued by ECHS Central Org. relevant to information contained in this document. It is possible, this document may not undergo changes. Therefore, this must be read in conjunction with the all future Policy letters

#### **A) INTRODUCTION**

This document **Answers** the following important **Questions** for ECHS Beneficiaries

- i) *Who can get Priority Treatment at Polyclinics?*
- ii) *Who can proceed to an Empanelled Hospital for OPD directly without any need to go to Polyclinic?*
- iii) *Who can proceed to a Service Hospital for OPD directly without any need to go to Polyclinic?*
- iv) *Who is a Special Category ECHS Beneficiary?*
- v) *Which Follow-up Consultation / Investigation do not require Referral Revalidation on each occasion, for going to an Empanelled Hospital?*

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### **B) Who can get Priority Treatment at Polyclinics (PC)?**

- a) The following will get Priority Treatment at PCs.
- b) Priority Treatment will cover all aspects right from “**Reception till Medicine Distribution**” to the following Beneficiaries :-
  - i) All ECHS Beneficiaries eligible persons under ‘**Persons With Disability**’ (**PWD**) **Act 2016 of the Govt of India**. These Beneficiaries will be required to produce **White colour ECHS Smart Card** (or corresponding Valid Online Temporary slip pending receipt of card)
  - ii) Battle Casualty, War Wounded or Disabled Veterans.
  - iii) Spouses of Battle Casualty, War Wounded or Disabled veterans. Spouses of these Beneficiaries will also have White Smart Card. War Disabled will be endorsed on the smart card of War Disabled persons & their spouses
  - iv) ECHS Beneficiaries Males over 75 years of age.
  - v) ECHS Beneficiaries Females over 70 years of age
  - vi) Patients needing urgent medical attention will override all categories to reach the Medical Officer (MO) , irrespective of Rank & Age

### **C) Who can proceed to a Empanelled Hospital for OPD directly without any need to go to Polyclinic?**

- i) ECHS Beneficiaries **75 years and above** can **directly** seek Direct **OPD Consultation (only) from Specialists of** Empanelled Hospitals ( Hospitals have a valid MoA & Not under STOP Referral)
- ii) **No REFERRAL** is required from ECHS Polyclinic
- iii) At EH, if any Investigation or Procedure is required based on specialist advice after OPD which are under Listed categories, the patient need not get any authorisation / referral and the same may be undertaken.
- iv) At EH, if any, Non-Listed Investigation or Procedure is required based on specialist advice after OPD, under “**Non-Emergency**” condition, **Referral from the Polyclinic will be required.**
- v) Medicines prescribed by the Specialist of Empanelled Hospitals (EH) after OPD, shall be **collected only** from the PC

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### ***D) Who can proceed to a Service Hospital for OPD directly without any need to go to Polyclinic?***

- i) ECHS Beneficiaries & Dependents who are **above 75 years** can **directly avail Specialist Consultation at OPD of Service Hospitals**
- ii) The above will be on respective OPD days.
- iii) **No Referral** is required from the Polyclinic.

### ***E) Who is a Special Category ECHS Beneficiary?***

- a) The following are considered as Special Category ECHS Beneficiaries and will have Priority Treatment as applicable
  - i. ECHS beneficiaries over 80 years of age.
  - ii. Cancer patients.
  - iii. Parkinson patients.
  - iv. Dementia patients.
  - v. Battle casualty and War Disabled persons (amputees).
  - vi. PWD Act 1995/2016 covered persons.
- b) In case of Non- Availability (NA) of medicines at the Polyclinic during the first visit, Beneficiaries of 'Special Category' can be given medicines through proxy having authority letter in subsequent visit for NA medicines. Tele / Video verification should be done where needed.

### ***F) Which Follow-up Consultation / Investigation do not require Referral Revalidation on each occasion for going to an Empanelled Hospital?***

- a) Certain Post-Operative Follow-Up treatment, requiring frequent consultation from Specialists of Empanelled Hospital (EH), do NOT require Referral revalidation on each occasion.
- b) Beneficiaries are advised to get the Referral revalidated at PC once in Six (06) months

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- c) Below **Follow-Up cases** are covered by the above for Consultation & Investigation
  - i) **Post Cardiac Surgery including Coronary Angioplasty**
  - ii) **Post Organ Transplant ( Liver, Kidney, Heart, and such) cases**
  - iii) **Post Neuro Surgery**
  - iv) **Post Brain Stroke**
  - v) **Cancer Treatment**
  - vi) **End Stage Renal Failure/ follow-up cases of Liver failure**
  - vii) **Liver Failure**
  - viii) **Auto Immune disorder like Rheumatoid Arthritis**
  - ix) **Neurological disorder - Dementia, Alzheimer's disease, Parkinsonism, etc**
- d) Medicines prescribed will be provided by the PC
- e) During the Follow-Up and in a **Non-Emergency** condition, Referral / Approval is to be obtained, for any Un-Listed Investigation or Procedure
- f) During the Follow-Up, if there is an **Emergency** condition for an Investigation / Procedure, No Referral is needed, even if these are Un-Listed Investigation / Procedure.

(Note :- Some doubts remain about this facility, though para 3 of CO ECHS letter dated 20 May 2020 does indicate this condition. I have written a formal letter to MD ECHS in Aug 2020 to confirm correctness of this para and awaiting reply as on to-date. Advise verify with your OIC PC)

**JAI HIND**

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