

ECHS NEWS LETTER (NAVY) 01 JAN 2009

1. **ECHS.** The Scheme is now almost six years old and fully functional.
2. **Polyclinics.** All polyclinics are fully functional with authorised equipments and staff and are providing 88% medicare to members.
3. **Membership.** As on date approx nine lakhs are members with 27 lakhs beneficiaries. Approx 40% of eligible pensioners have become members.
4. **Smart Card.** Essential to avail entitled medicare. If there is any requirement to utilise the medicare at other than parent polyclinic temporarily, temporary attachment certificate for six months can be obtained from the parent polyclinic. For permanent change of parent polyclinic, smart cards are required to be changed for new polyclinic.
5. **Referral Procedure.** In the normal course, ECHS members are required to obtain referral from their parent polyclinic to the nearest Military Hospital/ Private Empanelled Hospital for availing their entitled medicare.
6. **Empanelment of Private Hospitals.** 1124 Private hospitals/ Nursing homes/ Diagnostics centres/ Dental clinics/ Laboratories have been empanelled with ECHS till date. Another 150 Private hospitals are under consideration for empanelment. In Delhi and NCR 109 Private hospitals have been empanelled.
7. **Supreme Court Judgment.** Supreme Court has dismissed the appeal regarding refund of contribution to pre 01 Jan 96 members. However, pre96 pensioners who have not become members can now become members without contribution.
8. **Medical Treatment to ex-servicemen who have not joined ECHS.** Veterans who have not joined the ECHS will continue to be treated in service hospitals subject to availability of beds and facilities. Veterans are not entitled to transfer/referral from one service hospital to another and also treatment in empanelled hospitals.
9. **Reimbursement.** Reimbursement is not applicable directly to ECHS members except for non empanelled private hospital bills in emergency on lifesaving grounds. Reimbursements are now approved like Pvt Hosp bills at Station Headquarters level. Only those bills beyond four lakhs are required to be forwarded to ECHS Central Organisation Delhi through parent polyclinic.
10. **ECHS Expansion Network.** The proposal for 181 new polyclinics and 16 mobile polyclinics (Type 'E' Military) is likely to be approved by MoD soon with infrastructure cost of Rs. 130 Crores and 44 Crores of revenue budget per annum. Six polyclinics (i.e.) Shakurbasti, Timarpur, Khanpur, East Delhi (Preet Vihar), Greater Noida and Gurgaon (Sohna Road) in Delhi /NCR are part of expansion network.

11. **Review of ECHS.** The MoD has reviewed the ECHS after five years. The review committee consisting of CGDA Rep, MoD Rep, MoD (Fin) Rep and ECHS Central Organisation Reps has submitted the report to MoD on 05 Sep 08. Major recommendations are given below:-

- Additional staff for polyclinics
- Polyclinic staff pay hike
- Enhancement of Financial Powers
- Referral procedure review*
- Medical Officer also as OIC polyclinic
- Review of drugs management
- Periodical review of ECHS.

* Military Hospitals can refer the patient to private empanelled hospitals and in non military stations polyclinic can refer the patient to non empanelled hospitals on reimbursement basis at CGHS rates.

12. **Financial Outlay.** In the current financial year revenue expenditure is almost Rs. 600 Crores i.e. pay for staff, Private hospital bills and medicines etc.

13. **Grievances/Suggestions.** All Grievances/ suggestions be intimated to your parent polyclinic/Station Headquarters for earliest implementation/resolve.

14. **Queries.** ECHS update is available on website www.indianarmy.nic.in.
Contact No. of ECHS Central Organisation, Delhi. **25684846**
Contact No. of ECHS (Navy) Office. **24101319**
e-mail ID of ECHS(Navy) office echs_navy@yahoo.co.in
e-mail ID of ECHS Central Organisation mdechs@bol.net.in.

* **Saat Sandesh**

- * Cashless / Govt funded Scheme
- * Free Medicare at 227 polyclinics
- * Free Medicare at 1124 private empanelled hospitals
- * Free Medicare at 129 Military Hospitals
- * Reimbursement for treatment in non emp hosp in emergency
- * Comprehensive Medicare
- * Non-ECHS Members to join earliest