GOVERNMENT OF INDIA (भारत सरकार)
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (रेल मंत्रालय)
RAILWAY BOARD (रेलवे बोर्ड)

No.2016/H/16/3. **New Delhi, Dated: 29.06.2016.**

General Managers
All Indian Railways including PUs & RDSO

Sub:- Phasing out of Dental Amalgam and Mercury BP Instruments and Thermometer.

Ref:- Directorate General (Health Services) Government of India's letter number No. Z-28016/62-14-MH(part) dated- 08/03/2016.

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A copy of approved minutes of the meeting on the above mentioned subject received from Ministry of Health and Family Welfare vide letter cited under reference, is enclosed herewith. The competent authority in the Ministry of Railway has decided to implement the recommendations, mutatis-mutandis, as contained in the approved minutes of the meeting on Indian Railways.

This issues with the concurrence of the Finance Directorate in the Ministry of Railways.

(R.S. Shukla)
Joint Director /Health
Railway Board

No.2016/H/16/3 **New Delhi, Dated: .06.2016**
Copy forwarded to:-

I. The Chief Medical Directors/Chief Medical Officers All Indian Railways and PUs including (RDSO).
II. FA&CAO, All Indian Railways and PUs including (RDSO).

(R.S. Shukla)
Joint Director /Health
Railway Board

No. 2016/H/16/3 **New Delhi, Dated: 29.06.2016**
Copy forwarded to:-

I. Comptroller and Auditor General Of India (Railways), Room No. 224, Rail Bhawan, New Delhi.
II. Principal Directors of Audit/All Indian Railways including PUs & RDSO.

For Financial Commissioner/Railways

No. 2016/H/16/3. **New Delhi, Dated: .06.2016**

Copy to: F(E)Spl, Rail Bhavan.

SR. 1

FTS. No.- 3048292
F.NoZ-28016/62-14-MH(Part)
Directorate General of Health Services

Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi
Dated: 08th March, 2016

Minutes of the meeting

Subject: The approved minutes of the meeting regarding phasing out of Dental Amalgam and Mercury BP Instruments and Thermometer held under the Chairmanship of Dr. N.S. Dharamshaktu, Additional Director General of Health Services on 25th February, 2016 at 3:00 pm onwards in Room No 439B(A wing), Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi

The undersigned is directed to refer to the above mentioned subject and to enclose the approved minutes for further necessary action.

Yours sincerely,

(Dr. L Swasticharan)
Chief Medical Officer (LS)
Telefax: 23063537

Encl: As above

To,

1. DGAFMS, Room No. 60, Ministry of Defence, M Block, Church Road, Connaught Place, Delhi
2. Principal Secretary (Health), GNCT, Delhi Sachivalaya, ITO, New Delhi
3. Dr. Anil Kumar, DG (RHS), Min. Of Railway, Room No. 348, Railway Board, Rail Bhawan, New Delhi
4. Director of Health Services, GNCT, Karkardooma, New Delhi
5. Dr.R.K.Kataria, Medical Commissioner, ESI, Panchdeep Bhawan, CIG Marg, New Delhi
6. Dr.Inder Prakash , DDG (PH), Dte.G.H.S, Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi
7. Dr. Mohd. Shaukat, DDG(NCD), Dte.GHS, Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi
8. Dr.K.S.Sachdeva, Addl DDG (KS), Dte.GHS, Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi
9. Dr. Gajendra Kumar, Advisor/ Health Ministry of Railways
10. Dr. K.S.Mahar, CMO HR, South Delhi Municipal Corporation
11. Dr. Ajay Logani, Prof. CDER, AIIMS, New Delhi
12. Brig.S.K.Bhandari, DDGDS, New Delhi
13. Dr. Mahesh Verma, Director Principal, Maulana Azad Institue of Medical Sciences
14. Dr. Sangeeta Talwar, Maulana Azad Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi

15. Dr. Pankaj Khatri, DGAFMS, Ministry of Defence, New Delhi
16. Dr.H.P.Singh, HOD, Department of Dental, Dr. RML Hospital, New Delhi
17. HOD, Department of Dental, Safdurjung Hospital, New Delhi
18. Dr. Sushma Gupta, DHASDMC, 18th Level, SPM Civic Centre, Minto Road, New Delhi-2
19. Dr. P.K.Sharma, Medical Officer Health, Room No. 1002, 10th Floor, New Delhi, Municipal Council, Palika Kendra, New Delhi-1
20. Secretary General, IMA, IMA Bhawan, ITO, New Delhi
21. Dr. Praveen Verma, President, IDA, Delhi Branch, Delhi
22. Dr.Kumar Rajan, DANTAH, Multi- speciality Dental Care,
23. Dr. Amrita Goria, Head, Dept of Dentistry, MEDANTA Hospital, Gurgaon, Haryana

Copy for information:

1. PPS to DGHS
2. PPS to Addl DDG(NSD)
3. PA to CMO(LS)

SN. 1/1

Minutes of the Meeting regarding Phasing out of Dental Amalgam and Mercury BP Instruments and Thermometer

A meeting regarding phasing out of Dental Amalgam and Mercury BP Instruments and Thermometer, was held with various stake holders of Delhi-NCR Region, under the chairmanship of Dr. N.S. Dharmshaktu, Addl.Director General, on 25th February, 2016 at 3 p.m. in R.No.439B(A-wing), New Delhi (List of participants is enclosed). The Chairman introduced the objective of the meeting to the participants stating that the Government of India has already signed Minimata Convention on Mercury and resolution has been taken for phasing out of mercury BP Instruments, Thermometer and Dental Amalgam by 2020. The Government of India's strategy for phasing out and guidelines has been given to all the Central Government Hospitals and the States/UTs have also been requested for phasing out of these products by 2020, which has been included in the IPHS for district hospitals.

The Secretary General of Indian Medical Association (IMA) handed over to the Chairman the IMA phasing out policy of mercury BP instruments and thermometer by 27th December 2016, and he informed that an appeal is also being sent to all the IMA members. Dr. RML Hospital, Medanta Hospital, and DGAFMS, Max Hospital, informed that Mercury Amalgam, including BP instruments and thermometer have been completely phased out by them. The DGFMS has issued instructions to all the Medical and Procurement Agencies under Armed Forced Medical Services to stop procuring mercury based medical devices w.e.f. 13th December, 2016 and phase out existing such devices in consonance with national policy. According to the information collected through Regional Directors of HFW, six States have phased out mercury thermometer and sphygmomanometer (Delhi, Chandigarh, Goa, Haryana, Punjab and Madhya Pradesh) and in other States, it is at various phases. The Advisor- Health, Railways, stated that Railways has phased out about 70% and gradually they will be able to do it before the target date by 2020.

Alternate to Dental Amalgam are available but they require special techniqu and training. Dr. Ajay Logani, Representative from CDER (Centre for Dental Education and Research), AIIMS, mentioned that it is almost phased out from AIIMS. Dr. Mahesh Verma, Director Principal, Maulana Azad Institute of Dental Sciences, mentioned that use of mercury has been reduced to great extent, however, it is still preferred in few special categories by patients and in such cases it is used in capsulated form and with adequate precautions, the risk is minimum. In view of that, he mentioned that the import of Amalgam, should be gradually reduced from current year.

In view of above discussion, the recommendations given are as under:-

i) Import of Mercury should not be completely stopped from this year, however, should be reduced gradually, so as to stop it completely by 2020.

ii) Many leading Hospitals have already stopped using mercury equipments and dental amalgam for the last 4-5 years and the alternatives are available and it would be possible to phase out the mercury by 2020, so far BP Instruments and Thermometers and amalgam are concerned.

iii) The public awareness should be conducted to make people aware of the hazards of using of available mercury thermometer and BP instruments as well as dental filling instruments and also make them aware of availability of alternate materials/equipments and their use.

iv) The use of alternative materials should be promoted by training of dental professionals in using mercury free alternatives.

v) The policy of IMA is very encouraging and it is possible to reach to general practitioner in every corner of the country through IMA. The appeal being issued by the Secretary General, IMA to its members is highly appreciable.

vi) The research to further improve the available alternative of dental amalgam should be encouraged.

vii) Efforts should be made to prevent dental carries under National Oral Health Programmes and School Health Programmes and through various educational

neasures.

viii) The representatives of DCG(I) was not present. The members suggested that DCG(I) should take all the efforts necessary to phase out mercury containing cosmetics with more than 1 ppm including skin lightening creams and soap by 2020 and the antiseptic ointments containing mercury should also be phased out by 2020.

ix) The Medical Store Organisation (MSO) whenever doing any rate contract, should not include mercury containing antiseptic.

x) The MCI should update its standard list of equipments by replacing mercury containing thermometer and BP apparatus by available alternatives.

xi) The AYUSH Directorate should take a policy decision for phasing out of mercury containing drugs by 2020.

xii) The Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change should increase the hazardous products treatment and disposal agencies and should also develop some incentive scheme for accepting the returned equipments. As currently, they are providing services only on charging basis.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks to the Chair.

Subject: Meeting regarding Phasing out of Dental amalgam and Mercury BP instruments and thermometers under the Chairmanship of Dr N.S. Dharamshaktu, Additional Director General of Health Services on 25th February 2016 at 3:00 pm

List of Participants

1. Dr N S Dharamshaktu, Additional DGHS, Chair
2. Dr. Inder Prakash, DDG-PH, Dte. GHS.
3. Dr. Gajendra Kumar, Advisor/Health, Ministry of Railways
4. Dr. Nandita Grover,HOD (Dental Department),Max Hospital, Saket
5. Dr. K.S. Mahar, CMO HR,South Delhi Municipal Corporation
6. Ajay Logani, CDER, AIIMS
7. Brig S.K. Bhandari, DDGDS
8. Dr. Kumar Rajan, DANTAH , Multi-speciality Dental Care
9. Dr. Amrita Gogia, MEDANTA Hospital
10. Dr. Mahesh Verma,Director Pricipal, Maulana Azad Institute of Medical Sciences
11. Dr. Sangeeta Talwar, Maulana Azad Institute of Medical Sciences
12. Dr. Praveen Verma, Dr Verma Dental Care, Janak Puri
13. Dr. Pankaj Khatri, DGAFMS, Ministry of Defence
14. Dr. HP Singh, HOD, Dr. RML Hospital
15. Dr. K.S. Sachdeva, Addl. DDG,DGHS