

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6832  
ANSWERED ON:11.05.2005  
PROCEDURE FOR SEEKING CGHS PERMISSION  
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**Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:**

- (a) the criteria laid down for granting CGHS permission for certain ailments like fixing of artificial limb, rectification of heart valve etc. ;
- (b) the number of such cases pending during the last two years ;
- (c) the average time taken to dispose of such cases;
- (d) whether the disposal of cases takes too much time;
- (e) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to cut down the time period;
- (f) whether some instances have come to the notice of the Government in which during the pendency of the cases, the patients have died; and
- (g) if so, the mechanism put in place to deal with serious cases; and
- (h) the steps proposed to be taken to simplify the permission seeking procedure including the quick disbursement of medical bills ?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE ( SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a):The criteria laid down for granting permission by CGHS is as follows -

- (i) The CGHS beneficiaries can avail of in-patient (IPD) treatment and OPD tests/investigations like X-Ray, Ultrasound, etc. in the private hospitals/diagnostic centres recognised under CGHS by getting due permission from the Government for specific medical procedure/tests/investigations that have been advised by the CGHS/Government specialist or CMO in-charge of the CGHS dispensary. Permission is granted to the beneficiaries for follow-up treatment in CGHS recognised private hospitals up to a period of six months in certain specified conditions.
- (ii) In the case of medical procedures for which there are no CGHS rates, permission is granted to the beneficiary as per AIIMS rates or as per actual in case there is no AIIMS rate, provided the cost of procedure is less than Rs. 20,000/-.
- (iii) In the case of medical procedures for which there are no CGHS rates/guidelines and the cost of the procedure is above Rs.20,000/-, permission is to be granted by the Department of Health in consultation with the Dte. General of Health Services and the Integrated Finance Division. In such cases, an expert committee is also constituted where technical opinion is required before granting permission e.g. special type of hearing aids/artificial appliances/limbs, infusion pump, oxygen concentrator, CPAP machine, etc.
- (iv) In the case of artificial appliances costing less than Rs.2,000/- that has been advised by a Senior Specialist of the Govt. Hospital, no prior permission is required for purchasing the appliance.

(b): The number of cases received during the years 2004 and 2005 that are still under process in the CGHS Dte. pertain to procedures not approved under CGHS for which there are no CGHS rates and require approval of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. The details of such cases are as under:-

06 Cases pertaining to Cardiac Defibrillator  
03 cases pertaining to DBS implant.  
03 cases of specialized Artificial appliances  
01 case of Liver Transplant  
03 cases of Cadaver Kidney Transplant  
01 case of Biventricular Pace Maker

(c)&(d): In the case of approved procedures with prescribed ceiling rates like for Heart Valve replacement, permission is granted within one day subject to complete documents being furnished by the beneficiary. In the case of procedures involving approval of Standing Committee, permission is generally granted within three weeks. In respect of procedures where there are no guidelines and involves obtaining the opinion of Expert Committee and the approval of Department of Health like for Liver Transplantation, DBS implants, specialized artificial appliances etc., the requests for permission are examined on a case to case basis and the processing time varies in such cases.

(e): For many procedures, the CMO In-charge of the CGHS dispensaries have been delegated powers to grant permission to the pensioner beneficiaries. There is, however, a constant endeavour to improve the procedures under the CGHS.

(f): No such report/complaint has been received by the CGHS in this regard.

(g): In view of (f) above, the question does not arise.

(h): As already stated in (e) above, permission in respect of many procedures for which there are approved rates, are being granted by CMO In-charge of the CGHS dispensaries in the case of pensioner beneficiaries. Powers are also being delegated to the Zonal Additional Directors under CGHS Delhi for processing the medical claims of pensioner beneficiaries.