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कल्याण मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार

Indian Council of Medical Research  
Department of Health Research, Ministry of Health  
and Family Welfare, Government of India

## **EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)**

### **Capacity Building for Managing Healthcare-Associated Infection Outbreaks in Tertiary and Secondary Care Hospitals across India - A Hub and Spoke Model as Part of Capacity Building Program for Pandemic Preparedness (CBPPP) under PMABHIM**

#### **Overview**

Worldwide, over 1.4 million patients suffer from Healthcare Associated Infections (HAIs). These infections are being increasingly reported to be caused by multi- and pan-drug resistant organisms which often lead to outbreaks. Prevention of HAIs therefore needs to be prioritized since these affect the epidemic/pandemic response, as seen during COVID-19 pandemic. WHO suggests that all countries should have an effective emergency plan in place, even if the risk of highly contagious condition seems remote. Education and training are very important for the prevention and control of HAIs, especially for those caused by unusual, novel, or fatal pathogens.

Despite the high burden of HAIs in Indian hospitals, the response to prevention and containment of HAIs has been fragmented and inconsistent, especially in the small and mid-level hospitals. The absence of standardized protocols for HAI surveillance, training modules and structured capacity building programs for healthcare professionals are the key gaps impeding our ability to respond effectively to detect and prevent HAI outbreaks. Having a structured training program on HAI outbreak detection and management can immensely improve capacity of small and mid-level hospitals in responding to such threats by enabling them to quickly identify outbreaks of HAIs resulting in timely containment of such outbreaks. This will also equip healthcare facilities with the necessary skills and knowledge, enhancing pandemic preparedness nationwide.

ICMR invites Expressions of Interest (EOI) from medical professionals/researchers who are interested in undertaking capacity building activities for small-mid level private and government hospitals.

#### **Expected outcome**

- Expanding the reach of the Healthcare Associated Surveillance Network for HAI outbreak management
- Establish a capacity building model for management of HAIs, which is replicable across all type of hospitals in India as part of pandemic preparedness to meet the objectives of PMABHIM

- To equip at least 500 healthcare facilities with the necessary skills and knowledge to effectively detect, prevent, and respond to healthcare-associated outbreaks.
- Undertake implementation research related to HAI prevention and containment

### **Scope of work**

Capacity building plays crucial role in the strengthening of pandemic response as enunciated under PMABHIM. This project aims to develop and implement, standardized training program for HAI outbreak management, leveraging a hub and spoke model of HAI surveillance network hospitals. By doing so, it seeks to equip healthcare facilities with the necessary skills and knowledge to effectively detect, prevent, and respond to healthcare-associated outbreaks and to undertake pandemic research related to HAI, enhancing pandemic preparedness nationwide.

The faculty having requisite experience and track record will undergo training of trainers to be coordinated by ICMR and relevant national experts. The trained hospitals/faculty will then organize trainings of small and mid-level, both public and private sector, hospitals.

- Introduction to HAI outbreaks
- Describing the outbreak
- Identifying a HAI outbreak
- Outbreak Investigation and analyzing outbreak investigation data
- Breaking the chain of Infection
- Role of microbiology laboratories in investigating HAI outbreak
- Implementing control measures to end the outbreak and prevent recurrence.

### **Deliverables**

- Successful completion of TOT to be conducted by ICMR
- Undertaking the training of the assigned number of hospitals on HAI surveillance modules
- Using HAI surveillance data to develop local IPC protocols
- Completion of an implementation research project on the topics related to HAI
- Publication in high indexed research journal on pandemic related health research

**Total Duration:** 3 Years

## **Eligibility**

- The EOI can be submitted by professionals/scientists/faculty (Government, private and non-Government organization) who have regular employment in research institutes, hospitals/medical colleges (documentary evidence of their recognition including DSIR certificate should be available).
- Tertiary care hospitals from India with previous experience of undertaking HAI surveillance or management and or who are part of ICMR or NCDC supported HAI networks can submit the EOI, fulfilling the criteria mentioned below:
  - At least 15 years of experience in capacity building on HAI related health research and published work on the subject in high indexed journals.
  - Willingness to be part of monitoring framework beside imparting training to the hospitals as per the SOPs to be finalized by ICMR
  - Team members comprising of a microbiologist, epidemiologist, hospital administrator and a physician
  - Applicants must commit to adhering to ethical standards and operational guidelines in capacity building as per TOT to be conducted for selected sites including transparency, objectivity, and integrity throughout the project duration.

## **Application process**

Interested hospitals/ faculty having required experience and resources to undertake the assignment should fill out the Google form link and submit an EOI.

**Link-** <https://forms.gle/7LzBLZC9iTVeC7T4A>

## **Review process/ Evaluation:**

The EOI documents will be evaluated by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR). The ICMR team will screen the applications for technical accuracy and eligibility. The proposal will be evaluated based on factors such as study design, feasibility, well established facilities, prior experience and potential for value addition to the existing knowledge. Only shortlisted PIs will be contacted. The feasibility and suitability of integration of the proposed methodology in the final proposal to be developed under the guidance of ICMR Hqrs shall also be considered while shortlisting the EOI. The shortlisted teams will then collaborate to develop final detailed proposal, under the guidance of ICMR Hqrs.

**Timeline:**

<b>Activities</b>	<b>Date</b>
Release of call	3.9.2024
Last date of submission of EOI	15.9.2024
Shortlisting of EOIs	30.9.2024
Proposal Development Workshop	15.10.2024
Submission of a full proposal	30.10.2024

**For any queries related to the call, please contact**

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