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GUIDELINES FOR UTILIZATION OF UNTIED FUND AND ANNUAL MAINTENANCE GRANT FOR PRIMARY HEALTH CENTRES (PHCS)

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Health sector reforms under the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) aims to increase functional, administrative and financial resources and autonomy to the field units under which every PHC will get Rs. 25,000/- p.a. as untied grant for local health action. Similarly every PHC will get an Annual Maintenance Grant of Rs.50,000/- for improvement and maintenance of physical infrastructure. Provision of water, toilets, their use and their maintenance has to be the priorities. In addition, every PHC is being strengthened with provision of three staff nurses as against one at present and provision of two doctors (one male, one female) and Ayush practitioner.

2. Necessity of untied fund has been felt mainly due to unavailability of funds for undertaking any innovative Centre-specific need-based activity, as the allotment of funds to the States has traditionally been of the nature of tied funds for implementing a particular activity / scheme and this hardly left any funds with the public health facilities. This centralized management and schematic inflexibility in the use of funds allotted to the States, did not provide any scope for local initiative and flexibility for local action at block and down below level. Also it has been observed that most of the Primary Health Centres have not been maintained properly due to lack of steady fund, available locally for repair/refurbishing of infrastructure and basic facilities.

3. Since there would be substantial fund flow to the districts to be utilized for the Centres under NRHM / RCH-II and other programmes, the untied funds should not duplicate what is / can be taken up under other programmes. Each activity planned by the Centre should have clear rationale so that the impact of the untied fund can be distinctively assessed. A separate register be maintained in the PHC giving sources of funds clearly for various activities.

4. PHC untied fund shall be kept in the bank account of the concerned Rogi Kalyan Samitti (RKS)/ Hospital Management Committee (HMC). PHC level Panchayat Committee/Rogi Kalyan Samiti will have the mandate to undertake and supervise the work to be undertaken from Annual Maintenance Grant. Both the funds will be spent and monitored by RKS.

5. Suggested areas where Untied Fund may be used include:

- Minor modifications to the Center- curtains to ensure privacy, repair of taps, installation of bulbs, other minor repairs, which can be done at the local level

- Patient examination table, delivery table, DP apparatus, weighing meter, copper-T insertion kit, instruments tray, bag, tray, weighing scales for mothers and for newborn babies, plastic rubber sheets, dressing scissors, stethoscopes, buckets, attendance book, mackintosh sheet
- Provision of running water supply
- Provision of electricity
- Ad hoc payments for cleaning up the Center, especially after childbirth.
- Transport of emergencies to appropriate referral centers
- Transport of samples during epidemics.
- Purchase of consumables such as bandages in the Center
- Purchase of bleaching powder and disinfectants for use in common areas
- Under the jurisdiction of the Centre.
- Labour and supplies for environmental sanitation, such as clearing or
- Larvicidal measures for stagnant water.
- Payment/reward to ASHA for certain identified activities
- Repair/operationalising soak pits

6. The following nature of expenditures should not be incurred out of the untied fund:

- Purchase of Office Stationery and equipments, training-related equipments, Vehicles etc.
- Engagement of full time or part time staff and payment of honorarium / incentives / wages of any kind.
- Purchase of drugs, consumables and furniture.
- Payments towards inserting advertisements in any Newspaper / Journal / Magazine and IEC related expenditure.

GUIDELINES FOR USE OF SUB-CENTER (SC) FUNDS UNDER NRHM

1. As part of the National Rural Health Mission, it is proposed to provide each sub center with Rs.10,000 as an untied fund to facilitate meeting urgent yet discrete activities that need relatively small sums of money.
2. The fund shall be kept in a joint bank account of the ANM and the Sarpanch
3. Decisions on activities for which the funds are to be spent will be approved by the Village Health Committee (VHC) and be administered by the ANM. In areas where the sub center is not co-terminus with the Gram Panchayat (GP) and the sub center covers more than one GP, the VHC of the Gram Panchayat where the SC is located will approve the Action Plan. The funds can be used for any of the villages, which are covered by the sub center.
4. Untied Funds will be used only for the common good and not for individual needs, except in the case of referral and transport in emergency situations.
5. Suggested areas where Untied Funds may be used include:
 - Minor modifications to sub center- curtains to ensure privacy, repair of taps, installation of bulbs, other minor repairs, which can be done at the local level
 - Ad hoc payments for cleaning up sub center, especially after childbirth.
 - Transport of emergencies to appropriate referral centers
 - Transport of samples during epidemics.
 - Purchase of consumables such as bandages in sub center
 - Purchase of bleaching powder and disinfectants for use in common areas of the village.
 - Labour and supplies for environmental sanitation, such as clearing or larvicidal measures for stagnant water.
 - Payment/reward to ASHA for certain identified activities
6. Untied funds shall not be used for any salaries, vehicle purchase, and recurring expenditures or to meet the expenses of the Gram Panchayat.