



No. HFW-H(NRHM)/Standard Treatment Guidelines/2010  
National Health Mission  
Himachal Pradesh

To,

1. All the Chief Medical Officers/  
Block Medical Officers,  
Himachal Pradesh
2. The Head of Department,  
OBG/paediatrics/Radio diagnosis  
KNSHM&C, Shimla/ Dr.RPGMC, Tanda

Dated Shimla-9, the

Subject: Guidelines on Syphilis during Pregnancy.



Dear Sir,

Persons affected with sexually transmitted infection like syphilis form a substantive proportion of our population, including pregnant women. These infections can easily be transmitted from mother to child. Their occurrence during pregnancy poses a risk to the health of not just the mother, but also that of the newborn child. Pregnancies in many of the infected mothers end in spontaneous abortion, low birth weight babies or babies with severe infection. Unlike many neonatal infections, congenital syphilis is preventable.

Government of India has come up with technical and operational guidelines for screening for Syphilis during pregnancy (Softcopy attached for reference). These guidelines present detailed algorithms on the steps to be taken for confirmation and management of this infection. Some of the highlights of the guidelines are as follows:

- All pregnant women should be tested for syphilis in the first ANC visit itself, which should be as early as possible.
- A Point of Care (POC) test is recommended at facilities which do not have a laboratory facility for Rapid Plasma Reagin (RPR) test which includes sub-centres.
- Those women who go for ANC check-up at health care facilities where testing for RPR is available should be tested by RPR method (qualitative and quantitative).
- Ideally, all women who test positive for syphilis through POC should undergo testing by RPR.
- Those found positive either by POC or RPR should be treated for maternal syphilis as per the defined treatment protocol explained in this guidelines.
- Women who are at high risk for syphilis (See box in guidelines), should be screened again in the third trimester or at the time of delivery.
- Testing of spouse/ partner of syphilis – positive women should be mandatory followed by treatment as per protocol for those found positive.

- For all syphilis – positive women detected during ANC by either POC or RPR, their newborns should be tested by RPR.
- All newborns showing four-fold rise in titre compared to that of mother's titre need to be hospitalized to initiate penicillin treatment for 10 days.

The details are given in the guidelines which talks about technical guidelines on testing and management of Syphilis during pregnancy, protocol for investigation and management of Syphilis, operation plan for investigation and management of Syphilis.

You may also make a note of the following:

1. The guidelines need to be disseminated to all concerned health functionaries including ASHAs. This can be done during the various review meetings at district, block, sector meetings. In case, specific trainings are required, the proposal for same may be sent to the state. The budgetary requirement needs to be projected in PIP 2017-18.
2. All health care workers and professionals should generate awareness in the community about the importance of screening for syphilis in the Ante Natal period.
3. It needs to be ensured that Testing kits, consumables and drugs required for this programme are made available at all concerned health facilities. It is pertinent to mention here that POC Kits are being procured by the Government of India and would be supplied to the districts as soon as they are received by the state. The state has already received Injection Benzathine Penicillin for treatment of syphilis which is being supplied to all the districts.
4. This initiative envisages a focused and robust monitoring and evaluation system with specific indicators mentioned in the guidelines. The records and registers as mentioned in the guidelines need to be printed and made available to relevant service providers. The district level format for reporting to the state is being added in the Comprehensive Reporting Format.

You are requested to take cognizance of these new guidelines and in-corporate screening for Syphilis as an integral component of the Ante natal Package. For any clarification you may contact State Programme Officer, Maternal Health at spomhnp@gmail.com.

  
Deputy Mission Director,  
National Health Mission  
Himachal Pradesh  
e-mail: ddnrhmp@gmail.com

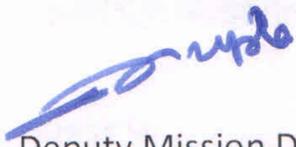


Endst.No. HFW-H(NRHM)Standard Treatment Guidelines/2010 Dated Shimla-9, the

Copy to:

1. The Principal Secretary (Health) to the Government of Himachal Pradesh for information please.
2. The Deputy Commissioner, Maternal Health, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India, Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi-110011 for information please.

3. All the Deputy Commissioners, Himachal Pradesh for information please.
4. The Director Health Services to the Government of Himachal Pradesh for information please.
5. The Director Health Safety and Regulation, Himachal Pradesh for information please.
6. The Women and Child Development Department, Himachal Pradesh for information please.
7. The Project Director, HPSACS, Khalini, Shimla for information please.
8. All the Gynaecologists/Paediatricians working under Health Department of Himachal Pradesh for information please.
9. All the State Programme Officers, National Health Mission, Shimla for information please.
10. The Consultant (MIS), NHM Shimla with a request to upload the same on the website under Maternal Health Guidelines.



Deputy Mission Director,  
National Health Mission  
Himachal Pradesh