

## Surakshit Matritva Aashwasan (SUMAN)

Suneela Garg, Samar Hossain\*

Department of Community Medicine, Maulana Azad Medical College, Delhi, INDIA.

Dear Sir,

During the 13<sup>th</sup> Conference of Central Council of Health and Family Welfare (CCCHFW) in New Delhi, the Central Government on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2019 launched the Surakshit Matritva Aashwasan (SUMAN) scheme, aiming at zero preventable maternal and newborn deaths in India under which pregnant women, mothers up to 6 months after delivery and all sick newborns will be able to avail free health care benefits. The Website for the scheme-SUMAN and grievance redressal portal was also launched during the event.<sup>[1]</sup>

The Scheme aims to provide dignified and quality health care at no cost to every woman and newborn visiting a public health facility. The scheme will enable zero expense access to the identification and management of complications during and after the pregnancy. Under the scheme, the beneficiaries visiting public health facilities are entitled to several free services. These include at least four ante natal check-ups that also includes one checkup during the 1<sup>st</sup> trimester, at least one checkup under Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan, Iron Folic Acid supplementation, Tetanus diptheria injection and other components of comprehensive ANC package and six home-based newborn care visits. Under the scheme, the beneficiaries visiting public health facilities are entitled to several free services.<sup>[2]</sup>

### AIMS of the Scheme

- Assured, dignified, respectful and quality healthcare at no cost
- Zero tolerance for denial of services in public health facility
- End all preventable maternal and newborn deaths and morbidities
- Provide a positive birthing experiences.

### The key features are

- Facilitate 100% reporting and review of Maternal Deaths
- First responder of maternal death to get 1000
- Servicing guarantee charter
- Free transport from home to health institutions (dial 102/108) assured referral services with scope of reaching health facility within one hour

of any critical case emergency and drop back from institution to home after due discharge (minimum 48 hr)

- Choice for delayed cord clamping beyond 5 min up to delivery of the placenta.

### Eligibility

All pregnant women, newborns and mothers up to 6 months of delivery will be able to avail several free health care services.

### Features and benefits

- Free ANC, delivery and postnatal care
- Free management of sick neonates
- Assured delivery plan for the high-risk pregnant women
- Ensuring quality standards at all levels of delivery points.

### Need for and significance of the scheme

The scheme aims to bring down the maternal and infant mortality rates in the nation and to stop all preventable maternal and newborn deaths. The scheme provides a positive and stress-free birth experience to the mother and newborn. As per the data by the government's think tank NITI (National Institution for Transforming India) Aayog, the maternal mortality rate has reduced from 254 per 1 Lakh births in 2004-06 to 130 in 2014-16. The mortality rate in infants also came down by 34 per 1000 birth from the previous 66. The aim is to get it in line with the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) of 70 per 100,000 live births by 2030.

### REFERENCES

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2. Neetu CS. Government launches SUMAN scheme, assures free medicines for pregnant women. 2019. <https://www.livemint.com/news/india/government-launches-suman-scheme-assures-free-medicines-for-pregnant-women-11570704991082.html> (accessed 10<sup>th</sup> October 2019)

Received: 13 November 2019;

Accepted: 15 December 2019

\*Correspondence to:

Dr. Samar Hossain

Senior Resident, Department of Community Medicine,  
Maulana Azad Medical College, New Delhi-110002, Delhi, INDIA.

Email: samy.delhidoc@gmail.com

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DOI :  
10.5530/amdhs.2019.4.16

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