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Shell out a minimum of Rs 1.7L for Covid-19 treatment at pvt hospitals

50% beds to be reserved for referral patients

24/6/20

SURAKSHA P
BENGALURU, DHNS

The state government on Tuesday fixed Covid-19 treatment package rate ceiling for private hospitals.

There are two categories of rates for patients: those who are referred by public health facilities and those who approach private hospitals directly.

According to the notification issued by Chief Secretary T M Vijay Bhaskar on Tuesday, 50% of the beds in private hospitals having facilities to treat Covid-19 patients shall be reserved for the treatment of patients referred by public health authorities. This will include the high-dependency unit (HDU)

and intensive care unit (ICU) beds both with and without a ventilator. The hospitals may utilise the remaining 50% of Covid beds for admitting Covid-19 patients privately.

The package rates are inclusive of PPEs and other consumables but do not include high-end drugs and treatments like plasma therapy. Package rates for Covid-19 patients, referred by public health authorities, are Rs 5,200 for general ward, Rs 7,000 for high dependency unit (ward with oxygen), Rs 8,500 for isolation ICU without a ventilator, and Rs 10,000 for isolation ICU with a ventilator.

The ceiling for Covid-19 patients, directly admitted by private health providers, making cash payment (non-insurance)

COST OF TREATMENT FOR GOVT REFERRAL

General Ward	Rs 5,200
High-Dependency Unit	Rs 7,000
Isolation ICU (Without ventilator)	Rs 8,500
Isolation ICU (with ventilator)	Rs 10,000



(PS: Costs include costs off PPEs and other consumables excluding high-end drugs and treatments like plasma therapy)

is Rs 10,000 for general ward, Rs 12,000 for the high-dependency unit, Rs 15,000 for isolation ICU without a ventilator, and Rs 25,000 for isolation ICU with a ventilator.

COST OF TREATMENT FOR DIRECT ADMISSION (NON-INSURANCE)

General Ward	Rs 10,000
High-Dependency Unit (ward with oxygen)	Rs 12,000
Isolation ICU (Without ventilator)	Rs 15,000
Isolation ICU (with ventilator)	Rs 25,000

Cost of 17-day stay at hospital (Avg recovery rate) Rs 1.7 lakh

The state average for recoveries is 17 days. That means cash patients will be shelling out a minimum of Rs 1.7 lakh for a 17-day stay in the general ward. Many patients have

taken as many as 22 days. This will cost cash patients Rs 2.2 lakh. For treatment in an ICU with a ventilator, it will cost a patient more than Rs 4 lakh for the same period.

There are very few who have recovered in ten days or less so far. By the government's own admission, it cost the government Rs 3.5 lakh on an average to treat a Covid patient at Victoria Hospital. These rates will not be applicable for patients subscribing to insurance packages.

Some private hospital managements felt the ceiling fixed by the state government is very low and will result in endangering doctor and patient safety. "These package rates are ridiculously lower -- anywhere from one fourth to one-fifth of the packages submitted by the hospital associations. Those prices won't even cover the consumable cost and will seriously jeopardise patient and doctor safety," said Viren Shetty, Executive Director and Group COO, Narayana Health.