

Indevar Pandey
Secretary
Ministry of Women & Child
Development
Shastri Bhawan
New Delhi



Sudhansh Pant
Secretary
Ministry of Health & Family
Welfare
Nirman Bhawan
New Delhi

D.O. No. PA/340/2023-Deputy Secretary- Part (1)

19th October, 2023

Dear Chief Secretary,

As you are aware, malnutrition is a complex challenge necessitating collective action. Towards this objective, convergent efforts are required for achieving desired outcomes. Under the aegis of 'Saksham Anganwadi and Mission Poshan 2.0' Umbrella Scheme of the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD), interventions to address malnutrition are being orchestrated through a multi-sectoral approach in collaboration with key Line Ministries/Departments and with unwavering support and commitment from States/Union Territories.

2. Identification of malnourished children and their treatment is an integral aspect of Mission Poshan 2.0. Identifying, treating and managing malnourished children at Anganwadi Centres and within communities and understanding when to refer them to Nutritional Rehabilitation Centres (NRC) or for medical help, are decisions highlighting the importance of close collaboration between the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD) and the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoH&FW).
3. Until recently, treatment of children with Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) was considered to be restricted to facility-based approaches. In this context, for the first time, Ministry of Women and Child Development, in coordination with Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, has jointly released a Standardized National Protocol for Management of Malnourished children (**copy enclosed**).
4. The protocol provides detailed steps for identification and management of malnourished children at the Anganwadi level, including decision-making regarding referral, nutritional management and follow-up care. The key steps, explained in the protocol, include, Growth Monitoring & Screening, Appetite Test for SAM children, Medical Assessment, Decision Making regarding level of care, Nutritional Management, Medical Management, Nutrition, Health Education & Counseling including WASH practices, Home Visits by Anganwadi Workers and Referral, Duration of Monitoring and Follow-up Care.
5. We would, therefore, request you to disseminate and popularize the Protocol and issue necessary instructions to District Magistrates/District Collectors, DPOs, District Health Officers, CDPOs, Medical Officers, Supervisors, ANMs, AWWs and ASHAs to ensure its effective implementation.

With regards,

Encl: A/a.

(Indevar Pandey)

Yours sincerely,

(Sudhansh Pant)

To : Chief Secretaries/Administrator of all States/UTs.

Copy to:

1. Principal Secretary/Secretary, Department of H&FW of all States/UTs.
2. Principal Secretary/Secretary Department of WCD/Social Welfare of all States/UTs.

Copy also to:DMs/DCs of All districts