

The Health News Updates (March 17, 2015)
From the desk of Reproductive Health Observatory
<http://www.rhobservatory.net/>

Maternal Health

Availed of maternity leave? Expect exemption from bell curve appraisal

MUMBAI: It's not easy for women employees who go on maternity or childcare leave to return to work. It's even more difficult for them, post that leave, if their performance appraisal is done on a bell curve rating.

A bell curve essentially pits performances of employees against that of their peers and stack-ranks them. In a typical scenario, any woman employee who has taken a short break on grounds of maternity would in all probability be ranked lower than her peers irrespective of her performance during the months prior to her maternity leave.

Source: The Times of India

Read more:

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/mumbai/Availed-of-maternity-leave-Expect-exemption-from-bell-curve-appraisal/articleshow/46576615.cms>

Reproductive Health

59 per cent women skip work because of illness

Working women continue to take full responsibility of home management with little or no help coming from family members in running household errands. This according to a survey conducted by the PHD Research Bureau of the PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry, which looked at the "Work-life balance and health concerns of women: A survey of Delhi".

Source: The Hindu

Read more:

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Delhi/59-per-cent-women-skip-work-because-of-illness/article6997516.ece>

Abortion

Draft proposing abortions by non-MBBS doctors slammed

The Indian Medical Association (IMA) has expressed shock over the new Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Amendment Draft Bill, which allows ayurvedacharyas, homoeopaths and nurses to conduct abortions.

Calling this illegal and quackery, Delhi Medical Council member Anil Bansal said: "This will simply put lives at risk."

Source: The Hindu

Read more:

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Delhi/draft-proposing-abortions-by-nonmbbs-doctors-slammed/article6995004.ece>

Family Planning

Data shows part utilisation of funds to compensate sterilisation deaths

After the Supreme Court rap on sterilisation deaths in a medical camp at Bilaspur district in Chhattisgarh, Health Ministry statistics submitted in the apex court show that only a part of the funds approved to compensate victims are actually spent.

The Ministry's affidavit shows that a grand total of Rs. 1,566.69 lakh was approved in 2013-14 for 36 States and Union Territories under the Family Planning Indemnity Scheme. Of this, Rs. 675.59 lakh was utilised.

Source: The Hindu

Read more:

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/data-shows-part-utilisation-of-funds-to-compensate-sterilisation-deaths/article7000277.ece>

Other Health News

Monitor status of food security card online

Besides getting real time information about pendency and disposal of applications for providing food security ration cards by the department officers made on the website, all decisions pertaining to the applications can also be monitored on the department's website, Minister of Food Supplies & Consumer Affairs Asim Ahmed Khan said on Sunday.

Source: The Hindu

Read more:

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Delhi/monitor-status-of-food-security-card-online/article6997534.ece>

Minister happy with allocation to health sector

Minister for Medical and Health Kamineni Srinivas has expressed satisfaction over the allocation made to his department in the State budget, saying that it was the best possible thing that could have been done in the given circumstances.

Source: The Hindu

Read more:

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/minister-happy-with-allocation-to-health-sector/article6997219.ece>

Not everyone with TB infection may suffer from the disease: IMA

“Only 10 per cent of those people living with tuberculosis infection may suffer from TB disease,” noted Indian Medical Association national president Dr. A.M. Pillai.

In most people, who breathe in the TB bacteria, the body's immune system is able to fight it and stop it from multiplying. This is called TB infection. People who are infected with TB do not feel sick, do not have any symptoms and cannot spread TB, he added.

Source: The Hindu

Read more:

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Delhi/not-everyone-with-tb-infection-may-suffer-from-the-disease-ima/article7001413.ece>

Health minister okays plan to monitor medical devices

After several horrific cases of malfunctioning medical devices, like babies being burnt to death due to short circuits in incubators or hip implants causing blood poisoning, the health ministry has approved a materio vigilance programme in an effort to ensure safety of medical devices.

Source: The Times of India

Read more

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/India/Health-minister-okays-plan-to-monitor-medical-devices/articleshow/46578317.cms>

State will foot medical bills of only poor, critically ill swine flu patients: Deepak Sawant, Maharashtra health minister

State health minister Deepak Sawant on Wednesday clarified that the government will reimburse swine flu treatment cost only for critically ill patients from economically weaker sections.

"Not every patient with swine flu can avail of this benefit. We will reimburse the treatment cost only for poor patients diagnosed with swine flu who need ventilator support," Sawant told TOI on Wednesday. "The aim is to help patients from financially weaker sections and those from below poverty line to avail of high-end tertiary care treatment for swine flu at private designated hospitals. The treatment cost will be reimbursed to either the patients or the hospitals where they undergo treatment," Sawant said.

Source: The Times of India

Read more

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/India/State-will-foot-medical-bills-of-only-poor-critically-ill-swine-flu-patients-Deepak-Sawant-Maharashtra-health-minister/articleshow/46535273.cms>

India has 19 health workers for every 10,000 people

India has 19 health workers which includes doctors and nurses for every 10,000 people in comparison to World Health Organisation (WHO) norms which prescribe 25 health workers for the same number, the Lok Sabha was informed on Friday.

Source: The Hindu

Read more

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/india-has-19-health-workers-for-every-10000-people/article6990391.ece>

Is there a doctor in the house?

Cut to today, where the first reaction is to call an ambulance or rush the person to a hospital. No doctor has time for the patient. They bark out orders to the nurses and instruct the family to buy medicines or give permission for a surgery. The concept of the family physician, who would be on

call to go to the patient's home as needed, has fizzled out over the past couple of decades or so. Even visits to the neighbourhood clinic are passé.

Source: The Hindu

Read more

<http://www.thehindu.com/features/metroplus/society/is-there-a-doctor-in-the-house/article6916280.ece>

Reliable health care stressed

Reliable health care, a method to ensure safety of the patient, is necessary, Chairman of Department of Medicine of Bronx Lebanon Hospital, New York, Sridhar S. Chilimuri said on Sunday.

Delivering the Dr. D. Govinda Reddy memorial oration organised by NTR University of Health Sciences, Dr. Sridhar explained about how care should be taken about the patient. Medical errors would happen in spite of all the care taken by the hospital administration but the damage could be minimised through the reliable health care method, he said.

Source: The Hindu

Read more

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Visakhapatnam/reliable-health-care-stressed/article6998248.ece>

Assam to roll out health policy for poor

Assam Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi on Saturday announced that his government would soon roll out a comprehensive health policy encompassing all health related aspects and would adopt a holistic approach for making the State "healthy."

Source: The Hindu

Read more

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/assam-to-roll-out-health-policy-for-poor/article6994655.ece>

Health worker murdered in Prakasam District

A 40-year-old Auxiliary Nurse Midwife was found murdered in her house at Thurumilla, near Cumbum in Prakasam District of Andhra Pradesh in the wee hours of Tuesday.

The health worker, K. Subadra was found in a pool of blood with her throat slit. On a complaint from the woman's son aged 17 years and daughter aged 15 years, Cumbum police launched a manhunt for the assailant.

Source: The Hindu

Read more

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/health-worker-murdered-in-prakasam/article7002900.ece>

Health care is main cause of poverty: CMC director

Health care is main cause of poverty in India, said Sunil Thomas Chandy, Director, Christian Medical

College, Vellore.

“It is a paradox. Health care is supposed to make people well, productive and robust. But it is the reason for poverty in India, because of failing value system in health care sector,” he said while speaking after receiving award for medicine, given by Arunai Engineering College, Tiruvannamalai as part of its achievers day celebration here on Sunday.

Source: The Hindu

Read more

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/tamil-nadu/health-care-is-main-cause-of-poverty-cmc-director/article7002107.ece>

A sketchy road map for health policy

Health impoverishment — falling into poverty due to health care costs — affects 63 million individuals in India every year. This is a damning statistic, especially when read with the fact that 18 per cent of all households face catastrophic health expenditures (health expenditure greater than 10 per cent of total household consumption expenditure or 40 per cent of total non-food consumption expenditure). We are at an urgent precipice in time for making health policy work for the poor in India — the deep end of dire straits. The 2015 draft National Health Policy (NHP) is pregnant with possibilities. The first federal health bill to come out in more than a decade is a salient opportunity for the Narendra Modi government to present a coherent plan to deliver equitable, efficient and sustainable health care to India’s billion plus citizenry

Source: The Hindu

Read more

<http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/a-sketchy-road-map-for-health-policy/article6983022.ece>

‘Include T.N. model in national health policy’

The Indian Public Health Association, Tamil Nadu branch, has appealed to the Union government to incorporate the success model of the Tamil Nadu government in public health and prevention in the National Public Health Policy to be formulated by it, said S. Elango, president of the association on Saturday.

Source: The Hindu

Read more

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/tamil-nadu/include-tn-model-in-national-health-policy/article6998196.ece>

India turns spotlight on adolescent health

“India has demonstrated very strong leadership in positioning adolescent health as part of continuum of care. India has taken the lead to present to the rest of the States why it is important to have a discussion on adolescent health,” said Dr. Flavia Bustreo, Assistant Director-General of Family, Women’s and Children’s Health, WHO, Geneva. She was recently in New Delhi to attend the Global Expert Consultation meeting.

Source: The Hindu

Read more

<http://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/health/india-turns-spotlight-on-adolescent->

[health/article6959500.ece](http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/include-mental-health-in-un-millennium-goals-expert/article6959500.ece)

Include mental health in UN millennium goals: expert

Says mental health is critical for well-being of society

“It is sad that mental health is often found to have been missing from our public debates, despite the fact that it is most critical for the well-being of society,” says Roy Abraham Kallivayalil, Secretary General of the Geneva-based World Psychiatric Association (WPA).

Source: The Hindu

Read more

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/include-mental-health-in-un-millennium-goals-expert/article6984385.ece>

Health for all envisaged by 2030

The Perspective Plan 2030 of the State for the health sector envisages health for all and health security to each and every one by 2030.

The Plan, outlined in the Economic Review 2014 presented before the Assembly here on Thursday, envisages a highly innovative and affordable health system that every Keralite can depend on, a health system which is accessible when people really require it, regardless of their capacity to pay.

Source: The Hindu

Read more

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Thiruvananthapuram/health-for-all-envisaged-by-2030/article6988819.ece>