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PART - II

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GOVERNMENT OF PUDUCHERRY CHIEF SECRETARIAT (HEALTH)

(G.O. Ms. No. 40, Puducherry, dated 6th September 2018)

NOTIFICATION

Whereas, the Directorate of Health and Family Welfare, Puducherry, has proposed to implement a New Scheme called "Grant of Transportation Charges to the People Living with HIV/AIDS" in the Union territory of Puducherry to compensate the minimum transportation charges incurred by the People Living with HIV/AIDS (PLHIVs) for attending ART (Anti Retroviral Therapy) Centre for collecting ART drugs and to get treatment.

[739]

| | LA | GAZETTE | DE L'ETAT | |
|--|----|---------|-----------|--|
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[Part-II

2. Now, therefore, the Lieutenant-Governor of Puducherry is pleased to frame the rules for the said scheme as appended herewith and to order that the above referred Scheme shall be implemented in this Union territory of Puducherry with immediate effect.

3. This issues with the concurrence of the Finance Department *vide* their I.D. No. 1779/FC/FD/F4/A1/2018-19, dated 24-08-2018.

(By order of the Lieutenant-Governor)

M. SARATHI,

Deputy Secretary to Government (Health).

Rules for "The Grant of Transportation Charges to the People Living with HIV/AIDS"

1. Short title, application and commencement.— (i) These rules may be called the "The Grant of Transportation Charges to the People Living with HIV/AIDS Rules, 2018".

(ii) They shall apply to the whole of the Union territory of Puducherry.

(iii) They shall come into force on and from the date of their publications in the Official Gazette.

2. Objective of the Scheme.— The object of the Scheme is to provide the minimum transportation charges incurred by the People Living with HIV/AIDS for attending ART (Anti Retroviral Therapy) Centre for collecting ART drugs and to get treatment.

3. Definitions.— In these rules, unless the context otherwise requires:-

(a) "Appellate Authority" means the Secretary to Government (Health), Government of Puducherry;

(b) "Director" means the Director, Health and Family Welfare Department, Puducherry;

(c) "Form" means Form appended to this Scheme;

(d) "Government" means the Administrator of the Union territory of Puducherry appointed under Article 239 of the Constitution of India;

Part–II]

LA GAZETTE DE L'ETAT

(e) "Grant of Transportation Charges" means the financial assistance granted under these Scheme;

(f) "People Living with HIV/AIDS" means a person who is infected by HIV/AIDS taking treatment in the ART (Anti Retroviral Therapy) Centre, who cannot be rehabilitated otherwise than by grant of financial assistance under these Scheme;

(g) "Union Territory" means the Union territory of Puducherry.

4. Grant of transportation charges.— Subject to the provision of rule 7, transportation charges will be granted to the People Living with HIV/AIDS in order to ensure their better treatment and adherence to treatment with the following rate at region wise:-

(a) Puducherry and Karaikal region will be given a sum of₹ 100 (Rupees one hundred only) for every quarter;

(b) Mahe and Yanam region will be given a sum of ₹ 200 (Rupees two hundred only) for every quarter;

5. *Eligibility.*— A Person Living with HIV/AIDS shall satisfy the following requirements for eligibility for assistance, namely:-

(a) He/She/Transgender must be a resident of Union territory of Puducherry at the time of making application of assistance;

| Sl. No. | Regions | ART Centre |
|------------|------------|---|
| (1) | (2) | (3) |
| 1 | Puducherry | ART Centre, IGMC & RI, Puducherry ART Centre, JIPMER, Puducherry |
| 2 | Karaikal | ART Centre, Nagapattinam, Tamil Nadu |
| 3 | Mahe | ART Centre, Calicut, Kerala |
| 4 | Yanam | ART Centre, Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh |

(b) He/She/Transgender should be a registrant with the following ART Centre:-

[PART-II

6. Tenure of the grant.— (a) The Grant of Transportation Charges to the Person affected by HIV/AIDS once sanctioned will be tenable for the period for which the recipient is alive or for 10 years whichever is earlier. If, the person affected by HIV/AIDS is alive beyond the period of 10 years and continues to satisfy the conditions of eligibility specified in Para-5;

Provided that nothing in this rule shall preclude the sanctioning authority from reviewing at any time the case of the person affected by HIV/AIDS under any changed circumstances, arising subsequent to the sanctioning of the assistance and withdraw or reduce the quantum of assistance;

Provided further that the person affected by HIV/AIDS or his/her parent or guardian, as the case may be, and shall be given an opportunity of being heard before the assistance is withdrawn or reduced.

(b) If, the beneficiary dies before receiving the assistance at any period, the same shall be lapsed.

7. How to apply.— (1) An application for getting transportation charges shall be made in Form-I (Annexure) by the person affected by HIV/AIDS or by either of his/her parent or guardian, if, the applicant is minor or mentally retarded person or a spastic child.

(2) The applications duly filled in by the applicant shall be submitted directly to the respective Officers noted in the following Table, by whom the application was issued.

| Regions | Recommending Authority |
|------------|--|
| (1) | (2) |
| Puducherry | The Medical Officer in-charge ART Centre, IGMC & RI, Puducherry. |
| | The Professor of Medicine in-charge ART Centre, JIPMER, Puducherry. |
| Karaikal | The Medical Officer in-charge ART Centre, Nagapattinam, Tamil Nadu. |
| Mahe | The Medical Officer in-charge ART Centre, Calicut, Kerala. |
| Yanam | The Medical Officer in-charge ART Centre, Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh. |

Part-II]

LA GAZETTE DE L'ETAT

(3) The received application shall be countersigned by the Project Director. Pondicherry AIDS Control Society for sanction.

(4) The applications shall be submitted along with the following certificates:-

a. Registration/Treatment certificate issued by the ART (Anti Retroviral Therapy) Medical Officer concerned;

b. The Copy of the residence proof (anyone available) issued by the concerned authority;

c. Copy of the Bank Passbook.

8. Scrutiny of application.— (i) On receipt of the application, the respective ART Medical Officer/Link ART centre will scrutinize the application, verify the registration at their Centres and forward the application to the Project Director. Pondicherry AIDS Control Society for sanction of the Transportation Charges.

(ii) The Medical Officer (in-charge) of the ART/Link ART Centre shall have to submit monthly report containing the details of persons affected by HIV/AIDS to the Project Director, Pondicherry AIDS Control Society, Puducherry.

9. Sanction of Assistance.—After having satisfied that the applicant is eligible for the assistance under these rules, the Project Director, Pondicherry AIDS Control Society may sanction the assistance to the applicant.

10. Mode of payment.—The provision of Transportation Charges shall be directly deposited with the Bank Account of the beneficiary for every quarter or yearly once. The amount of assistance shall become payable from the first month in which it is sanctioned. Further, the payment to person living with HIV (PLHIV) will be made subject to verification by Project Director, Puducherry AIDS Control Society that patient regularly attend the ART Centre and received treatment/ consultation/counseling.

11. Intimation of change of Address.—It shall be obligatory for a beneficiary of assistance to intimate any change of address to the respective Medical Officer, ART Centre/Link ART Centre. The person shifting to a place outside the Union territory of Puducherry for a

LA GAZETTE DE L'ETAT

[PART-II

period exceeding three months shall not be eligible for the assistance. The order sanctioning assistance shall be cancelled if, the beneficiary is absent from the Union territory of Puducherry for more than three consecutive months;

Provided that, if, the beneficiary returns to the Union territory of Puducherry at any time and continues to reside in the Union territory of Puducherry, the Project Director, Pondicherry AIDS Control Society, may revive the payment of assistance after due verification of the facts relevant to the continuance of the assistance and the arrears of assistance shall also be paid in such cases subject to a maximum of three months.

12. Cancellation.—Notwithstanding anything contained in rule 8, the Project Director, Pondicherry AIDS Control Society, may cancel the sanction issued for grant of assistance and stop the payment of assistance if at any stage, it is found that it was sanctioned on a mistaken ground or on false information and recover the entire amount of assistance paid to the beneficiary till such cancellation.

13. Appeal.—1. Any person aggrieved by any decision or order of the Project Director, Pondicherry AIDS Control Society under these Scheme, may file an appeal to the Appellate Authority, whose decision on the appeal shall be final;

2. The appeal under sub-rule (1) shall be filed within three months from the date of the decision or order appealed against;

Provided that the Appellate Authority may entertain an appeal after the expiry of the said period of three months on sufficient grounds being shown by the applicant as to why he/she/transgender was precluded from filing an appeal within the specified period.

14. Interpretation.—If, any doubt arises as to the interpretation of these rules, the matter should be referred to Secretary to Government (Health), Government of Puducherry and the decision of the Secretary shall be the final.

Part-II]

LA GAZETTE DE L'ETAT

ANNEXURE FORM-I

(See Rule-4)

APPLICATION FORM

For the grant of Transportation charges to people living with HIV/AIDS

| 1. | Name of the applicant | : | Photograph |
|-----|---|---|------------|
| 2. | Name of the Parent/Guardian | : | |
| 3. | Permanent Address | : | |
| | | | |
| 4. | Age | : | |
| 5. | Registration No., Date and Name of the ART Centre where treatment is taken. | : | |
| 6. | Sex | : | |
| 7. | Nationality | : | |
| 8. | Whether Native of Union territory of Puducherry. | : | |
| 9. | Details of persons legally liable to maintain the applicant. | : | |
| 10. | Aadhaar Card Number (if available). | : | |
| 11. | Details of Bank Account held | : | |
| | Account No. | : | |
| | Type of Account | : | |
| | Name of the Bank | : | |
| | Branch Name | : | |
| | | | |

Signature/Thumb-impression of the applicant.

746

LA GAZETTE DE L'ETAT

[Part-II

Recommendation of Medical Board Recommended/Rejected

Medical Officer (in-charge) of ART Centre/Link ART Centre

/Countersigned/

The Project Director, Pondicherry AIDS Control Society

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