Minutes of the National consultation on setting up of National eHealth Authority (NeHA) held on 04th April, 2016

Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW), Government of India

Place: AIIMS Board Room, New Delhi

Time: 10:00 A.M.

A National Consultation regarding setting up of *National eHealth Authority (NeHA)* was held under the chairmanship of Secretary, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW) and co-chaired by **Secretary (DeitY)** on 4th April, 2016 at AIIMS, New Delhi as per agenda given in **Annexure 1**. Senior Officers from MoHFW, DeitY and representatives from more than 23 States attended the consultation. Representatives of various other organisations from health sector such as World Health Organisation (WHO), Association Bodies (IMA, FICCI, NATHEALTH and NASSCOM), private healthcare providers and healthcare IT vendors and healthcare IT experts participated in the consultation. List of the participants is provided at **Annexure – 2.**

1. **Shri Sunil Sharma, Joint Secretary (eGov), MoHFW** welcomed the participants and briefed about the Vision and Goals of **National eHealth Authority (NeHA).** NeHA is proposed to be set up to specify standards, regulate adoption of standards/data privacy & security measures and alos promote IT initiatives in health domain. One of the key roles for NeHA would be to establish eHealth systems enabling inter-operability of data across hospitals, health facilities, public health IT systems (centre & states) etc. He mentioned that there is a need to encourage EHR creation across the country along with a unique code in order to maintain online medical record for each person. He highlighted that there are over 30 countries who are taking initiatives encompassing robust laws and implementation & support structures for establishment of standards complaint EHR Systems. He further mentioned that the EHR Standards 2013 are being revised and suggestions have been invited from healthcare stakeholders.

2. **Shri Bhanu Pratap Sharma, Secretary (HFW)** suggested to leverage the use of cloud by hosting different modules of health IT systems such as Hospital Information System on cloud and mentioned that work in this regard is already underway. He informed that work for setting up an integratedhealth information platform is underway and as precursor to this platform, a test bed for interoperability between different health & hospital IT systems is being created which is expected to be ready for demonstration by June 2016. He also said that by this year end, an EHR standards compliant HIS would be ready for public health sector. He further mentioned that NeHA would look into the overall policy and roadmap focusing on how IT (including mobile technology) can be optimally utilized in Healthcare sector and how to leverage and integrate the existing large scale public health IT systems like Mother & Child Tracking System (MCTS) and Health Management Information System (HMIS).

3. **Dr. Aruna Sharma, Secretary (DeitY)** emphasized on the setting up of a controlling body to directhospitals & other healthcare providers across the country to maintain their patient's health records in standardized electronic format. She also said that appropriate IT

management systems needed to be developed and put in place which could take care of the relevant concerns of patients. She said that DeitY is willing to support the MoHFW in all possible ways for achieving the goal of Digital Health.

4. **Shri K.B. Agarwal, AS (eGov), MoHFW**, mentioned regarding the critical need for unique identifiers for both patients and healthcare providers for achieving interoperability between IT systems. Aadhaar numberis a suitable solution for use as patients unique identifiers. He further mentioned that a National Identification Number (NIN) process has been started wherein all health facilities both public and private would be assigned a unique identification number. He suggested that EHR in a standard format should be developed and deployed throughout the country by providing an enabling environment. He also mentioned that upcoming technologies such as – Machine to machine technology, Internet of Things (IoT) etc. should be optimally used. On the aspects of electronic health data privacy & security, he mentioned that National Law School of India University from Bengaluru has been assigned the work to come out with a legal framework and draft legislation.

5. **Shri C.K. Mishra, AS & MD** mentioned that the Indian healthcare system is very complex system and technology is the only way to fill the existing gaps between the patients and the medical system. He mentioned about three major challenges in health sector i.e. making health facility & services accessible and affordable as well as maintaining the quality of services. He also said that technology is a good supplement for human resource and knowledge and will play a big role in coming future in the healthcare domain. In order to handle critical factor, *i.e.*, management of healthcare in our country, he further emphasized the need to have strong IT systems in place.

6. **Prof. M.C. Mishra (Director) AIIMS, New Delhi** said that nowadays patients all over the country are generally misusing antibiotics by taking antibiotics without consultation from doctors. He then mentioned about existing system in place at AIIMS which enables to track antibiotic usage by the patients undergoing treatment at AIIMS. With such system in place, they have been able to bring down misuse of antibiotics. He also said that lots of opportunities in collating the EHR records exist in India these days and interoperability of EHR can lead to tremendous time & cost savings for both patients and the health set-ups. He encouraged the use of EHR systems with necessary technology for the benefit of people in long run.

7. **Dr. Rajesh Narwal (WHO, India)** mentioned about the basic supporting pillars of Healthcare and role of ICT in providing access of quality healthcare to everybody. For this ICT can be a key enabler. He emphasized that critical gap of human resources needs to be filled up at thet level. There is strong need for integration between the existing as well as newly developed health systems. He also emphasized on the need for interoperability

between healthcare systems across the country for a seamless data & information exchange/transaction between government and private healthcare providers.

8. Dr. Narwal also discussed importance of critical inputs like political & financial support, inter- departmental cooperation and collaboration between states for functioning of regulatory body.

9. **Prof. S.N. Sarbadhikari, Project Director, CHI made a** presentation outlining the Aim, Vision and Goal of NeHA:

   - **Aim:** In order to guide and support India's journey in eHealth and consequent realization of benefits of ICT intervention in Health sector in an orderly way, the Ministry proposes to set up National eHealth Authority (NeHA) as a statutory body for promotional, regulatory and standards related roles.
   - **Vision:** Attainment of high quality health services for citizen through cost-effective and secure use of information and communication technologies in health and health-related fields.
   - **Goal:** To ensure development and promotion of eHealth ecosystem in India for enabling the organization, management and provision of effective people-centric health services to all in an efficient, cost effective and transparent manner.

   Prof. Sarbadhikari mentioned that the draft Concept Note on setting up of NeHA was placed in public domain seeking suggestions/comments and more than 500 comments/suggestions were received from various stakeholders, associations, industry players etc., which were very useful for further improving the concept note. He also explained about need for National eHealth Policy for eHealth adoption in the country which includes data management, privacy and security, policy guidelines for health records of patients visiting the health facilities.

10. **Shri Rajendra Pratap Gupta** gave suggestions on standardization of EHR at hospitals, state and micro level. He said nation-wide guidelines should be in place for EHR standards. He also gave an important suggestion on renaming National eHealth Authority to "**National Digital Health Authority**", to keep in line with "Digital India" and also to broaden the scope of the Authority, so that mHealth and Tele-Health also could be included in its purview.

11. **Mr. B S Bedi, Advisor - CDAC** discussed about user acceptability of EHR. He emphasized that for an EHR system to run successfully, it should be made user friendly so as to be acceptable to Doctors / paramedics who would be main operators / users.

12. **Ms. Manisha Mantri, Pune** explained how ICT can help effectively in storing, recording and receiving the sharable and transferable medical records. She briefed the participants on EHR standards, structured terminology, coding systems, Healthcare information exchange,

security, privacy and emphasized much on data security and privacy along with making the whole system on EHR.

13. Presentations of the ongoing eHealth applications were given by four States namely Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, and, Kerala. The Panel was chaired by Shri Sunil Sharma, JS (eGov), MoHFW and panellists were: i) Shri Sunil Bhushan, STD (NIC), (ii) Shri Srinivasan Ramakrishnan, Advisor, NISG and (iii) Shri Jitendra Arora, Director (eGov), MoHFW.

   States highlighted the challenges being faced by them during carrying out eHealth initiatives. They echoed the sentiments that improved healthcare delivery can be improved substantially by providing medical personnel with better access to data, faster data retrieval and higher quality of data.

14. After detailed discussions & deliberations during the consultation, **Shri K. B. Agarwal, AS (eGov.) MoHFW** summarized the discussion points observing that there has been consensus amongst the participants on the proposal for creation of the National e-Health Authority which would lay and regulate standards in the e-Health domain and **catalyze** and promote e-Health initiatives in the country.

15. The consultation ended with vote of thanks to the chair and co-chair and the participants.

Annexure 1: NeHA Consultation Schedule

Registration		10:00 – 10:30
Welcome Address	Shri Sunil Sharma, JS (eGov), MoHFW	10:30 – 10:40
Address	Shri C. K. Mishra, AS&MD, MoHFW	10:40 – 10:50
Address	Dr. Aruna Sharma, Secretary, DeitY	10:50 – 11:00
Keynote Address	Shri B. P. Sharma, Secretary (HFW), MoHFW	11:00 – 11:10
Presidential Address	Shri J.P. Nadda, Hon'ble Union Health and Family Welfare Minister	11:10 – 11:25
Tea Break		11:25 – 11:40
Presentation on: - Concept Note of NeHA - Standards in Health Informatics	(i) Prof. S. N. Sarbadhikari, Project Director, CHI (ii) Representative of iNRC (CDAC, PUNE)	11:40 – 11:50 11:50 – 12:00
Panel discussion and stakeholder consultation on NeHA : - Role - Structure - Road Map	Panel Chair : Shri K. B. Agarwal, Addl. Secretary(F&D), MoHFW <u>Panel members:</u> (i)Shri Sunil Sharma, JS (eGov), MoHFW (ii)Prof S. N. Sarbadhikari, Project Director, CHI (iii)Representative, WHO India (iv) Representative, DeitY (v) Representative, NISG (vi) Shri B. S. Bedi, Advisor- CDAC	12:00 – 14:00
Lunch		14:00 - 14:30
Experiences of States in implementation of Hospital Information System (HIS) and Interoperability of EHR	Presentation by States (Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala) Panel Chair: a. Shri Manoj Jhalani, JS(Policy), MoHFW b. Shri Sunil Sharma, JS (eGov), MoHFW	14:30 - 16:00
Vote of Thanks	Shri Ankit Tripathi, Additional Director, CHI	16:00

Annexure 2 : List of Attendees

S.No.	NAME	DESINGNATION	ORGANISATION / STATE
1.	Shri B.P. Sharma	Secretary (H&FW)	MoHFW, New Delhi
2.	Dr. Aruna Sharma	Secretary , DeitY	MCIT, New Delhi
3.	Shri C K Mishra	AS & MD (NHM)	MoHFW, New Delhi
4.	Shri K B Agarwal	Addl Secy (F and D)	MoHFW, New Delhi
5.	Prof. M. C. Misra	Director, AIIMS	New Delhi
6.	Dr. B D Athani	Spl. DGHS	MoHFW, New Delhi
7.	Shri Sunil Sharma	JS (e-Gov) MoHFW	MoHFW, New Delhi
8.	Dr. Om Prakash	Principal Secretary	Uttarakhand
9.	Shri Jitendra Arora	Director (e-Gov)	MoHFW, New Delhi
10.	Dr. K K Agarwal	Hony. Secy. General	IMA HQrs., New Delhi
11.	Shri Rajendra Pratap Gupta	Policy Advisor	Mumbai
12.	Dr. Rajesh Narwal	Technical Officer- Health Systems Stewardship & Regulations	WHO (India)
13.	Shri B.S. Bedi	Advisor	C-DAC, Pune
14.	Shri S. Ramakrishnan	Advisor	NISG, New Delhi
15.	Shri Sudhir Saxena	Vice President	NISG, New Delhi
16.	Dr. Jayanta K Das	Director	NIHFW, New Delhi
17.	Shri Rajesh Gera	DDG	NIC, New Delhi
18.	Prof. S.N Sarbadhikari	Project Director, CHI	NIHFW, New Delhi
19.	Dr. S. B. Bhattacharyya	Head- Health Informatics	TCS
20.	Shri Sunil Kumar	Senior Technical Director	NIC, New Delhi
21.	Mrs. Manisha Mantri	iNRC, C- DAC	Pune
22.	Dr. Surya Bali	Nodal officer	Madhya Pradesh
23.	Dr. Karan Vir Singh	Apollo Hospitals	New Delhi
24.	Mr. Arvind Shivaramakrisnan	Apollo Hospitals	Hyderabad
25.	Shri Anjan bose	NatHealth	New Delhi
26.	Shri Ankit Tripathi	Addl Director, CHI	New Delhi
27.	Shri Gaurav Sharma	Deputy Director, CHI	New Delhi
28.	Dr. Sanjay Gupta	Nodal Officer, CHI	NIHFW
29.	Dr. J.K. Shivdasani	Asst. Nodal Officer, CHI	NIHFW
30.	Dr. C. Jayan	Joint director - e-health	Kerala
31.	Smt. Sowjanya	Mission Director, NHM	Karnataka
32.	Shri Sandeep Chopra	Scientist	NIC, New Delhi
33.	Dr. Subodh	Head Surgery	AIIMS, New Delhi
34.	Shri Ajay Rampal	STD, NIC	New Delhi
35.	Shri B.B. Pawar	Deputy Director	Maharashtra

36.	Shri Sameer K. Sinha	Commissioner & Secretary Health Department	Assam
37.	Dr. N.V. Kamatt	Pr. Advisor	IMA (HQ)
38.	Shri B K. Datta	DS.	MoHFW, New Delhi
39.	Shri Abhishek Jain	Manager- HLS	Wipro
40.	Shri Amit Kumar	AD (e-Gov)	MoHFW, New Delhi
41.	Dr. Sunil Srivastava	DG (MH)	Uttar Pradesh
42.	Shri Amarjeet Singh	Director	DGHS
43.	Mr. Anirudh Sen	FICCI	New Delhi
44.	Dr. A. K. Chaudhary	AD. IT	Lucknow
45.	Shri Sunil Gupta	HMIS - IT	Uttar Pradesh
46.	Dr. M.P. Sharma	DGHS Office	Haryana
47.	Dr.Vishwaajeet Singh	DGHS Office	Haryana
48.	Shri Rajesh Sihag	DGHS Office	Haryana
49.	Dr. Neeraj Kharwal	MD, NHM	Uttar Pradesh
50.	Major Sandeep Sharma	Ministry of Defense; IAMI	New Delhi
51.	Lt. Ankur Gupta	AIIMS; IAMI	New Delhi
52.	Shri Ashish Sharma	MoHFW	New Delhi
53.	Dr. Monika Rana	Addl. Secretary GNGT	
54.	Shri Piyush Chaturvedi	Sr. Manager	Mitra India Ltd.
55.	Sm. Vibha Mehra	Head, BD	Wipro
56.	Dr. C. Murli K. Kumar	Advisor Health	Niti Ayog
57.	Dr. Ritesh Mondal		Andaman & Nicobar
58.	Dr. Probin Chnadra Arambam	Deputy Director of Health	Manipur
59.	Dr. Ahanthem Victor Singh	Block HMIS officer	Manipur
60.	Shri B.B. Mittal	Dy. Director - Rural Health	Gujarat
61.	Mr. Shahnawaz Khan Rathod	Project officer - IT	Gujarat
62.	Dr. Ganesh	Nodal officer	Karnataka
63.	Shri Suren Kumar	AIIMS – Technical Staff	New Delhi
64.	Shri M. Harish	AIIMS – Technical Staff	New Delhi
65.	Shri Bobby Kumar	AIIMS – Technical Staff	New Delhi
66.	Dr. D.K. Pandu	TLSHSRC, NHM	Odisha
67.	Dr. Sampooran Singh	DHS	Chandigarh, Punjab
68.	Mr. Samuel Lalhmingmawia,	MIS Manager	Mizoram
69.	Sm. Rajbala	Telemedicine AIIMS	New Delhi

70.	Dr. Anita Bhutia	DD/ RCH	Sikkim
71.	Shri K. Srinivas Subramanyam	STC. NHM	Chhattisgarh
72.	Dr. M. Srinivas Rao	State program officer, NHM	Telangana
73.	Shri B. Satyanarayan	IT - department	Telangana
74.	Dr. K. Ravi Krishna Sharma	IIHFW	Telangana
75.	Dr. Amit Sukla	Dy. Director - Rural health	MG education
76.	Mrs. Anand Sharma	Consultant	Uttarakhand
77.	Ms. Charu khattar	DA (e- gov)	Delhi
78.	Dr. Salim	Director Health	VISK
79.	Dr. Anurupa Roy	Associate Consultant	MoHFW, New Delhi
80.	Mr. Saurabh Kumar	Associate Consultant	NIHFW, New Delhi
81.	Ms. Indu Bala	Associate Consultant	MoHFW, New Delhi
82.	Mr. Biju Raj	Associate Consultant	MoHFW, New Delhi
83.	Dr. J Panday	CHI	NIHFW, New Delhi
84.	Dr. Eswar Das	CHI	NIHFW, New Delhi
85.	Dr. M Alam Khan	CHI	NIHFW, New Delhi
86.	Dr. S Gupta	CHI	NIHFW, New Delhi
87.	Dr. A Rastogi	CHI	NIHFW, New Delhi
88.	Ms. Ginny Bansal	CHI	NIHFW, New Delhi
89.	Ms. Antika Jain	CHI	NIHFW, New Delhi
90.	Ms. Richa Verma	CHI	NIHFW, New Delhi
91.	Ms. Parul	CHI	NIHFW, New Delhi
92.	Mr. Yunus	CHI	NIHFW, New Delhi
93.	Mr. Vijay Krishan	CHI	NIHFW, New Delhi
Many other participants from various States/UTs have also attended this consultation			