

Ayushman Bharat - Hospitals' Concern

What is the issue?

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Hospitals are displeased with the provisions of the Ayushman Bharat programme. Click [here](#) to know more on the scheme

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What are the concerns?

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- **Rates** - Government recently published the rates that insurance companies would pay hospitals.

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- This applies for the 1,350 procedures covered under the scheme.

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- Hospitals have criticised these rates as being arbitrary and low.

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- E.g. the price of Caesarean section for 5 days of hospital stay, food and consultation is Rs.9,000

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- Even government hospitals incur Rs.7,000 a day just to maintain a bed.

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- **Rationale** - The reimbursement rates were not calculated in a scientific manner.

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- Doctors are thus concerned about the clustering of medical conditions in the rate list.

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- E.g. treatment for tuberculosis and HIV with complications will be reimbursed at the same rate of Rs.2,000 a day

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- Clearly, the degree of treatments for HIV and tuberculosis differ.

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- HIV complications can be relatively serious and these illnesses must be compensated differently in the scheme.

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- **Hospitals** - Ayushman Bharat relied on a study of over 100 hospitals in 60 cities.
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- But these were mostly hospitals with under 50 beds in tier-2 and tier-3 cities.
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- The cost structure of these hospitals is substantially different from tertiary-care hospitals in tier-1 cities.
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- But Ayushman Bharat rates do not account for these differences.
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What is the government stand?

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- For now, the government is committed to the launch date of August 15.
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- But officials have acknowledged that the rates will be revised.
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- AHPI (Association for Healthcare Providers India) has been asked to submit a list of 100 key procedures.
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- Ayushman Bharat would then conduct a detailed cost study for this.
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- Until then, hospitals are asked to continue with the present rates.
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Source: The Hindu

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