

Ayushman Bharat - Hospitals' Concern

What is the issue?

\n\n

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

\n\n

What are the concerns?

\n\n

\n

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

\n

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

\n

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

\n

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

\n

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

\n

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

\n

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

\n

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

\n

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

\n

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

\n

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

\n\n

What is the government stand?

\n\n

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

\n\n

\n\n

Source: The Hindu

\n

