# Digital Health Incentive Scheme

## Why in news?

The central government has recently given a year-long extension to the Digital Health Incentive Scheme (DHIS).

## What is Digital Health Incentive Scheme?

- **Launch** – The scheme was launched by the **_National Health Authority (NHA)_** in **_2023_**.

  _**National Health Authority** is the successor of the National Health Agency which was constituted in 2019 and has a full functional autonomy. It is the apex body responsible for implementing AB-PMJAY and National Digital Health Mission._

- **Aim** – It is meant for _digitising patients' health records_ and linking them with the Ayushman Bharat Digital Health Account (ABHA ID).
- It also aims to _promote digital health transactions_ and to provide a boost to the healthcare providers for adopting digital health.

  _**ABHA ID** is a unique identity for people just like an Aadhaar ID that allows one to store and share their medical records digitally which includes records such as doctor's prescriptions, diagnostic test results._

- **Eligibility** – All Health facilities like Clinics, Nursing Homes & Hospitals.
- Laboratory/Radiology diagnostics Centers and Pharmacies.
- Entities providing ABDM enabled digital solutions (Digital Solution Companies).

  _**Public digital solution companies** includes companies such as National Informatics Centre (NIC) and Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), which provide eHospital and eSushrut solutions to government hospitals._

- **Beneficiaries** – The Tier 1 and 2 cities in India have been the main beneficiaries of digital healthcare services.
- The scheme is applicable to both _public and private hospitals and digital solution companies_ (DSCs) creating digital health records.

- **Incentives** – Under the scheme, government and private hospitals, clinics, nursing homes, diagnostic labs, and pharmacies are *paid Rs 20 for each additional record* they digitise, over and above the threshold of 100 transactions a month.
- Under it, each facility or digital solution company can *earn incentives up to Rs 4 crores*.

**Digital Health Incentive Scheme Incentives**

| Type of Entity | Base Level Criteria | Incentives |
|---|---|---|
| Digital Solution Companies | For hospitals/clinics /labs /nursing homes using their software | 5 rupees per transaction per month |
| Hospitals/Clinics/Nursing homes | 100 transactions per month | 20 rupees per additional transaction above the base level. |
| Diagnostic Facilities/Labs | 100 transactions per month | 20 rupees per additional transaction above the base level. |
| | For health locker/teleconsultation transactions | 500 rupees transactions per month, 5 rupees per additional transaction above the base level. |
| Insurance Provider | For every insurance claim transaction linked with ABHA address filled by hospital through Health Claim Exchange | 500 rupees per claim or 10 percent of the claim amount, whichever is lower. |

## Why DHIS is extended?

- **Extension** – DHIS will now remain in effect **_till June 30, 2025._**

- **Need for extension** – It is meant to incentivise providers of digital health solutions such as hospital's health management information system (HMIS) and laboratory management information system (LMIS) to make available the right software at an affordable cost.

- **Impact on hospitals** – The scheme _helps reimburse hospitals their expenditure on digitising_ their facility as this expenditure was often reported as a significant drawback for hospitals to move to digital health.
- Hospitals and clinics _have to install computers and laptops_, purchase an internet connection, and _software (HMIS/LMIS)_ to go digital.
- A _behaviour change component_ is also involved in moving from physical mode of working to digital.
- The scheme is on the lines of the incentives given for _promotion of UPI_.
- **Significance** – This extension will _help health facilities_ adopt the essential digital tools they need for their operations.

## How DHIS can be beneficial for the patients?

## Benefits of Digital Health Incentive Scheme

**Earn incentives for Digitization**

Reimburse the expenses incurred for digitization to all the participating healthcare facilities, Digital Solution Companies

**Efficiency in Healthcare Delivery**

Seamless access to patient's longitudinal health records; Removes hassles in the healthcare process (registration, appointment, consultation, IPD admission, discharge, etc)

**Building a Robust Digital Health Ecosystem**

Building a robust digital health ecosystem across different levels of healthcare facilities

**Improved Quality of Care**

Evidence based, accessible, and good quality care. Patient's ease of access to digitized health records and improved healthcare delivery.

- **Better services –** DHIS equips the care providers to become digital, thereby enabling better healthcare services and more convenience for patients.
- **Reduced waiting time** – By enabling digital transactions the patient's waiting time gets reduced. Patients will be able to scan a QR code and avail quick OPD registrations.
- **Access of medical records** - They can also securely view, access, and share their health records with the care providers.
- **Reduced burden on patient** - Without the scheme, hospitals are likely to recover the digitisation costs from the patients.
- **Saving money** – Patients are less likely to get same tests done repeatedly due to loss of records, especially in cases of migrant workers and patients travelling from one state to another.
- **Health insurance** – This provides access to better health insurance for older people.

### References

1. The Indian Express| Extension of DHIS

ABDM| Digital Health Incentive Scheme

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