



मनोज झालानी  
Manoj Jhalani

अपर सचिव एवं मिशन निदेशक (रा.स्वा.मि.)  
Additional Secretary & Mission Director (NHM)

Subject: Roll out of Midwifery Initiative in the State - reg

भारत सरकार  
स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय  
निर्माण भवन, नई दिल्ली - 110011  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE  
NIRMAN BHAVAN, NEW DELHI - 110011  
D.O. No.: M.12015/68/2018-MCH  
Dated the 07<sup>th</sup> June, 2019

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India stands committed to ensure the wellbeing of mothers and children which is well demonstrated through its extensive health programmes under the National Health Mission and RMNCH+A strategic approach. The Government of India also recognizes that skilled nurses and midwives are critical to health system strengthening and healthcare delivery which significantly impact the health of women and children.

According to the Lancet series on midwifery, safe and effective midwifery care (which includes family planning) can avert 83% of all maternal deaths, stillbirths and newborn deaths. 24% of pre-term births can be prevented through a model of midwife-led continuity of care, where there is a well-functioning midwifery programme. In this context the Government of India took a landmark policy decision to roll out the National midwifery guidelines in the country during the Partner's Forum 2018 held in New Delhi. Following the introduction of LaQshya – Labor Room Quality Improvement Initiative, the guidelines for Midwifery Services in India pave the way for a transformational leap into quality childbirth care which will be available at healthcare facilities.

These guidelines introduce the concept of Midwifery Led Care Units (MLCUs) managed by Nurse Practitioners in Midwifery at Medical Colleges, District Hospitals, FRU's and CHCs. This will pave the way for a model of care wherein normal deliveries are handled by professional midwives trained as per International Confederation of Midwives (ICM) standards and complicated deliveries are handled by specialists/ doctors. Overall this initiative will enable healthy women and their newborns to experience high quality, respectful continuity of care provided by midwives and integration of midwifery care into the public health system.

Your decision to introduce Midwifery will go a long way in making a significant impact on the maternal and newborn health in your State/ UT. The **Midwifery Guidelines and a guidance note on planning and budgeting for the roll out of Midwifery Initiative are enclosed.** I look forward to your proposals in the supplementary PIPs.

Yours sincerely,  
Sd/-  
(Manoj Jhalani)

**Addl. Chief Secretary/Principal Secretary/ Secretary** (Dept. of Health) of All States/UTs

**Copy to:-**

- Mission Director (NHM) of all States/UTs
- Director Public Health of all States/UTs

  
(Manoj Jhalani)