No. MCI - 211(2)/2010/Ethics/Gen./33690.
Dated: 12/10/2010

To
The Registrar
All the State Medical Councils

Subject: - Order of the Hon’ble Supreme Court in WP® No. 535/1998 titled Sahara House Vs. UOI & Other connected petitions dated 01.10.2010.

Sir,

This is to inform you that the Hon’ble Supreme Court of India has directed the MCI to issue following directions to private doctors treating HIV patients:

"Furnish the information in respect of HIV patients who are clinically evaluated to be in need of second line - Anti Retro Viral Drug in format attached to the Guidelines for Prescription of Anti Retro Viral Therapy dated 09.09.2010 issued by the Government of India on 09.09.2010 to the National Aids Control Organization (NACO)."

In pursuance to the order of the Hon’ble Supreme Court in the above referred case, you are hereby directed to circulate among all the private doctors treating HIV patients, the following information in the format enclosed with the Guidelines for Prescription of Anti Retro Viral Therapy dated 09.09.2010. Your attention is drawn to the Regulations 7.2 of the Indian Medical Council (Professional Conduct, Etiquette & Ethics) Regulations 2002 and the same is quoted hereunder for ready reference:

"... 7.2 If he/she does not maintain the medical records of his/her indoor patients for a period of three years as per regulation 1.3 and refuses to provide the same within 72 hours when the patient or his/her authorized representative makes a request for it as per the regulation 1.3.2."

Your attention is also invited to the Regulation 1.3.1 and 1.3.2 which requires maintenance of medical records by every physician. Regulation 1.3.1 and 1.3.2 are relevant clauses and the same are being reproduced for the sake of ready reference:

"3. Maintenance of medical records:

1.3.1 Every physician shall maintain the medical records pertaining to his / her indoor patients for a period of 3 years from the date of commencement of the treatment in a standard proforma laid down by the Medical Council of India and attached as Appendix 3.

1.3.2. If any request is made for medical records either by the patients / authorised attendant or legal authorities involved, the same may be duly acknowledged and documents shall be issued within the period of 72 hours."

Office of Delhi Medical Council
Receipt No. 5193
Date 12/10/2010

Phone: +91-11-25367033, 25367035, 25367036  Fax: +91-11-25367024
Email: mci@bot.net.in, contact@mciindia.org  Website: www.mciindia.org
In view of the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, you are hereby directed to circulate among all the private doctors who are treating HIV patients, the Guidelines for Prescription of Anti Retro Viral Therapy alongwith the attached format and further direct the private doctors to furnish the information in requisite format immediately to NACO and every quarterly also.

You may also bring to the notice of the private doctors that breach of directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court for the private doctors in furnishing the above said information would not only amount to violation of the order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court but also violation of the IMC Regulations as quoted above. You may also bring to the notice of the private doctors that they are required to follow the directions scrupulously and without breach. I may mention here that non-adherence of the above said directions by the private doctors may lead to initiation of appropriate proceedings under Indian Medical Council (Professional Conduct, Etiquette & Ethics) Regulations 2002.

A compliance report may kindly be sent to the office of the Council.

Thanking you

Yours faithfully

(Dr. Reena Narayan)
Deputy Secretary

Enclosures:

1. Supreme Court order dated 01.10.2010
2. Guidelines for Prescription of Anti Retro Viral Therapy dated 09.09.2010 and attached format.
Guidelines for Prescription of Antiretroviral Therapy

The antiretroviral therapy (ART) is now available free at 284 ART Centres across the country, wherein nearly 3.5 lakh PLHA are getting treatment. Since ART is a lifelong therapy with significant economic burden on families, we must assess patient's financial condition on affordability of not only lifelong ART but also their capacity for good nutrition, hygiene and other related expenses. Efforts should be made to refer all PLHA to Govt. ART centres for ART and treatment of OIs. This will help them save resources for good nutrition and other family needs. This will also make them eligible for free second line ART once they develop treatment failure on first line ART over a period of time.

All those who can afford or want to take treatment in private sector must be started a rational triple Drug "first line ART (NNRTI based)" unless there is a specific contraindication for the same. The "second line ART (PI-based)" should only be resorted to in case of proven first line failure/ drug toxicity (summary of rational regimen enclosed based on National guidelines). Any unstructured irrational treatment using combination of first line and second line ARV, prescribing incomplete regimen, under dosages of ARV drugs etc by medical practitioners / clinics will have adverse impact on the structured national programme & consequent burden of drug resistance among patients as well as transmission issues. It has also been observed that many a time patients are initiated directly on second line regimen (PI based regimen). All doctors must familiarize themselves with national treatment protocols which can be accessed on NACO website www.nacoonline.org and are updated periodically.

An office memorandum no.- T-11020/29/1998(Admin ART) dated 26/09/2008 has already been issued in this regard by NACO and was endorsed by Hon'able Supreme Court in its judgment in Sahara house case no. 535/1998 on 1/10/2008. The court has also directed the Medical Council of India, Dental Council of India and Indian Nursing Council to
ensure compliance with these guidelines. Any irrational use of ARVs or deviation from national protocol will be viewed seriously as a professional misconduct.

It is once again emphasized that all initial ART prescriptions must be rational first line ART regimen. All private practitioners should send a quarterly report of patients with them to NACO & respective State AIDS Control Societies in the prescribed format. (copy enclosed)

This issues with the approval of Secy. (Department of AIDS Control) & DG, NACO.

(Subhash Chandra)
(Under Secretary to the Government of India)

1. Project Director, State AIDS Control Society of all States/UTs/Municipal Corporations
2. Principal Secretary/Secretary (Health & FW) of all States
3. Director (Medical Education), Directorate of Health Services, of All States
4. Director (Health Services), Directorate of Health Services, of All States with request to disseminate this to all hospitals/NGOs/Health care providers in their state
5. Nodal Officer, All ART Centres
6. Regional Coordinators (CST)
7. All NACO officials
8. The Solicitor General, India
9. Medical Council of India
10. Dental Council of India
11. Indian Nursing Council
12. Indian Medical Association
13. Association of Physicians of India
14. Indian Academy of Paediatrics
15. FOGSI

Copy for information:
1. PPS to HFM
2. PPS to MOS(H&FW)
3. PPS to Secy. (Health & FW)
4. PPS to DGHS
5. PS to Secy. (AC) & DG, NACO

(Subhash Chandra)
(Under Secretary to the Government of India)
Quarterly ART Reporting Format for Private Sector

Name of District & State: 

Reporting Month & Year: 

Name of Reporting centre / Doctor: 
Complete Address: 
Email: 
Contact No (land line & Mobile): 

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No. of PLHA registered with you in HIV care</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Children</th>
<th>TG</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No. of PLHA ever started on ART by you/ your centre</td>
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<td>No. of PLHA currently on ART with you/ your centre</td>
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<td>No. of PLHA initiated on “First Line ART (NNRTI) based regimen</td>
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<tr>
<td>No. of PLHA switched to Second line ART (PI based) due to toxicity to NNRTI</td>
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<tr>
<td>No. of PLHA switched to second line (PI based) due to treatment failure</td>
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<tr>
<td>No. of PLHA started on an initial second line ART (PI Based)</td>
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<tr>
<td>No. of patients referred to Government ART centre</td>
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Guidance on Rational ART Regimens

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First Line ART regimen</th>
<th>2 NRTI (or 1 NRTI + 1 NNRTI) + 1 NNRTI</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alternative first line ART</td>
<td>2 NRTI (or 1 NRTI + 1 NNRTI) + 1 PI (due to NNRTI toxicity)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second line ART</td>
<td>2 NRTI (or 1 NRTI + 1 NNRTI) + 1 PI (due to treatment failure)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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