

Minutes of the Eighth Meeting of Central Supervisory Board constituted under the Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1994 held on 8-10-2002.

The list of participants is annexed (Annexure).

The meeting was presided over by Hon'ble Minister for Health & Family Welfare (HFM), Shri Shatrughan Sinha, who is the Chairman of the Board (CSB). HFM stated that the Census, 2001 data on child sex ratio is of serious concern. Studies have revealed that social pressure of son preference is a major contributing factor for female foeticide by detection of sex of foetus of pregnant women. Government has already enacted and enforced the Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1994 (PNDT Act) for combating the practice of female foeticide. Supreme Court of India has taken a very serious view of the situation and directed all State Governments to ensure the strict enforcement of the Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act. Accordingly, State Governments have constituted Appropriate Authorities under the Act at various levels to closely monitor the enforcement of the PNDT Act. Cooperation of doctors, intellectuals and NGOs has been secured.

HFM drew attention of the Members to the Supreme Court directions regarding the implementation of the Act. In view of these directions State Governments have so far registered more than 18,000 bodies using ultrasound machines and filed about 300 cases against violations and sealed more than 250 ultrasound machines of unregistered organisations.

He also stated that as desired by the Supreme Court the Act is being suitably amended in keeping with the emerging technologies and difficulties encountered in the implementation of the Act. The Cabinet approved the amendments to the PNDT Act on 31.5.2002 and the Bill introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 25.7.2002.

Briefing the members, Secretary (FW) stated that in the last meeting of Technical Sub-Committee of the CSB held on 5.9.2002, the proposed amendments to the PNDT Rules were discussed.

The Agenda of the meeting was taken up with **Agenda Item No.1: Confirmation of the minutes of the seventh meeting of the CSB held on 2.4.2002** wherein the main points of the minutes of the seventh meeting of the Board and action taken report thereon were read out and confirmed.

**Agenda Item No. 2: Amendments to the Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Rules, 1996:**

The proposed amendments to the Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Rules were discussed in detail. Dr. D.P.S. Sandhu, Director

Health Services, Punjab felt that provision of monthly report in respect of pregnancy related procedures/techniques/tests conducted by genetic counselling centres/genetic laboratories/genetic clinics/ultrasound clinics/imagine centres would add to their paper work and a quarterly report should suffice. The Board however felt that regular monitoring of the clinics using ultrasound machines is necessary by way of monthly reports so that the evil practice of pre-birth detection of sex of foetus leading to female foeticide could be contained effectively. Dr. S.S. Aggarwal stated that the proposed amendments are perfectly in order. The Board approved the proposed amendments to the Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Rules, 1996.

**Agenda Item No. 3: Abnormalities/diseases and conditions to be prescribed by the Central Supervisory Board under section 4 (2) (vi) and section 4 (3) (v) of the Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1994.**

Dr. S.S. Aggarwal and Dr. A.K. Dutta felt that the abnormalities and diseases mentioned in clauses (i) to (v) of section 4(2) cover all the diseases and abnormalities for which pre-natal diagnostic techniques are required to be conducted. However, it was felt that a Committee be constituted to look into the matter. The Board decided that a Committee consisting of the following be constituted to consider any other diseases or abnormalities to be specified under clause (vi) of section 4(2) and the conditions therefor to be specified under section 4(3)(v).

- |    |  |                  |
|----|--|------------------|
| 1. | Dr. S.P. Aggarwal, Director General, Health Services                         | Chairman         |
| 2. | Dr. S.S. Aggarwal, Mumbai.   | Member           |
| 3. | Dr. A.K. Dutta, New Delhi.   | Member           |
| 4. | Director General/Secretary, ICMR, New Delhi.                                 | Member           |
| 5. | President/Secretary, Indian Radiological and Imaging Association, New Delhi. | Member           |
| 6. | Joint Secretary (Policy)   | Member Secretary |

Dr. A.K. Pandey, who has filed Writ Petition (Civil) No.339 of 2002 in the Supreme Court may be invited to attend the meetings of the above committee to present his point of view before the Committee.

The Committee will submit its report within three months.

**Agenda Item No. 4: Indications for ultrasound during pregnancy.**

The Board approved that ultrasonography during pregnancy should only be performed when indicated. The following is the representative list of indications for ultrasound during pregnancy. Ultrasound is not indicated to determine the sex of foetus except for diagnosis of sex linked diseases such as Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy. Haemophilia A & B etc.

- (1) To diagnose intra-uterine and/or ectopic pregnancy and confirm viability.
- (2) Estimation of gestational age (dating).
- (3) Detection of number of foetuses and their chorionicity.

- (4) Suspected pregnancy with IUCD in-situ or suspected pregnancy following contraceptive failure/MTP failure.
- (5) Vaginal bleeding / leaking.
- (6) Follow-up of cases of abortion.
- (7) Suspected hydatidiform mole.
- (8) Assessment of cervical canal and diameter of internal os.
- (9) Discrepancy between uterine size and period of amenorrhoea.
- (10) Any suspected adnexal or uterine pathology / abnormality.
- (11) Detection of chromosomal abnormalities, foetal structural defects and other abnormalities and their follow-up.
- (12) To evaluate foetal presentation and position.
- (13) Assessment of liquor amnii.
- (14) Preterm labour / preterm premature rupture of membranes.
- (15) Evaluation of placental position, thickness, grading and abnormalities (placenta praevia, retroplacental haemorrhage, abnormal adherence etc.).
- (16) Evaluation of umbilical cord – presentation, insertion, nuchal encirclement, number of vessels and presence of true knot.
- (17) Evaluation of previous Caesarean Section scars.
- (18) Evaluation of foetal growth parameters, foetal weight and foetal well being.
- (19) Colour flow mapping and duplex Doppler studies.
- (20) Ultrasound guided procedures such as medical termination of pregnancy, external cephalic version etc. and their follow-up.
- (21) Adjunct to diagnostic and therapeutic invasive interventions such as chorionic villus sampling (CVS), amniocenteses, foetal blood sampling, foetal skin biopsy, amnio-infusion, intrauterine infusion, placement of shunts etc.
- (22) Observation of intra-partum events.
- (23) Medical/surgical conditions complicating pregnancy.
- (24) Research/scientific studies in recognised institutions.

The above list will be annexed to Form F prescribed under the Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Rules.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks to the chair.

\* \* \* \*

List of Participants

1. Shri Shatrughan Sinha, Minister for Health and Health & Family Welfare (Chairman).
2. Dr. (Smt.) Rejeswaramma Vukkala, Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha). Buchireddypalem, Nellore District, Andhra Pradesh. 214, North Avenue, New Delhi-1 Phone 3018805.
3. Shri J.V.R. Prasada Rao, Secretary, Department of Family Welfare.
4. Dr. S.P. Aggarwal, Director General of Health Services, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Nirman Bhavan, New Delhi.
5. Ms. K. Sujatha Rao, Joint Secretary (Policy), Department of Family Welfare.
6. Ms. Roli Srivastav, Joint Secretary, Department of Women and Child Development, Ministry of HRD, Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi. [Ph.No.338 3823 (O) – FAX 338 9487]
7. Shri D.R. Meena, Joint Secretary and Legal Adviser, Department of Legal Affairs, Ministry of Law & Justice, Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi 3388028(O). 4101676@.
8. Dr. K. Kalaivani, Prof. & Head of the Department of Reproductive & Bio-Medicine, National Institute of Health and Family Welfare, Munirka, New Delhi. [Ph.No.616 5959 - Fax No.610 1623]
9. Dr. Shyam S. Agarwal, Director, Advanced Centre for Treatment, Research & Education in Cancer (ACTREC) TATA Memorial Centre, Prel, Mumbai – 400012. [Ph. No.022 741 2906]
10. Dr. Ashok Kumar Datta, Prof. and Head of the Department of Paediatrics, Kalawati Saran Children's Hospital, Lady Hardinge Medical College, New Delhi. [Ph.No. 336 5792(O), 3343279 (R) – FAX 3363396 duttak @vsnl.net].
11. Dr. Urmila B. Apte, 4. Girish, T.H. Kataria Marg, Mahim, Mumbai – 400016. [Ph.No.022 4376441 – Mumbai, 3311966 – New Delhi].
12. Dr. D.P.S. Sandhu, Director, Health Services (Family Welfare), Government of Punjab, Parivar Kalyan Bhavan. Sector 34, Chandigarh. [Ph.No. 0172-600 455].
13. Dr. Rakesh Mittal, Deputy Director General (SG), Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), New Delhi. [Ph.No. 652 0493, 652 9753 – FAX No.6851055].
14. Dr. V. Muthuswamy, Sr.DDG, Chief, BMS Division, ICMR, New Delhi. [Ph.No.685 7791, FAX No. 685 7791]
15. Smt. Sudha Deshpande, Institute for Human Development, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, IAMR Building, I.P. Estate, MG Marg, New Delhi - 110002. [Ph.No.335 8166(O). 91226149290@ email: sudhadespande @hotmail.com]
16. Mrs. Madhu Bala, Director (PNDT), Department of Family Welfare.
17. Dr.(Mrs.) Saroj Dhingra, Assistant Commissioner, Department of Family Welfare
18. Shri R.N. Bansal, Under Secretary, Department of Family Welfare.