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सचिव

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भारत सरकार
स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण विभाग
स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय

Government of India
Department of Health and Family Welfare
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

D.O No. 1851521(1)/2020
10th September, 2020

Dear Colleague,

As you are aware, availability of adequate and uninterrupted supply of medical oxygen is an important pre-requisite for managing Moderate & Severe cases of COVID-19. With increasing number of active cases of COVID-19, the consumption of oxygen is also increasing.

2. It is learnt that few States are trying to curb the free Inter-State movement of oxygen supplies by exercising provisions under various Acts and also by mandating the manufacturers/suppliers located in the State to restrict their oxygen supplies only to the hospitals of the State.
3. It is important to emphasise that Medical Oxygen is an essential public health commodity and any impediment in the supplies of Medical Oxygen in the country may critically impact the management of patients suffering from COVID-19 disease in other parts of the country. Hence, it is every State's responsibility to ensure that every hospitalized COVID patient receives oxygen. In addition, some of the major oxygen manufacturers/suppliers already have existing supply agreements with hospitals in various States with a legal obligation to fulfill such agreements.
4. Hence, you are requested to ensure that no restriction is imposed on the movement of Medical Oxygen between States.

Regards .

Yours sincerely,

(Rajesh Bhushan)

All Chief Secretaries/Administrators of all States / UTs