

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE**

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1967  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 2<sup>ND</sup> AUGUST, 2024**

**STANDARD TREATMENT GUIDELINES (STGs)**

**1967 SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB:**

Will the Minister of **HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has issued Standard Treatment Guidelines (STGs) regarding prescriptions issued by doctors, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether as per the study by Indian Journal of Medical Research (IJMR) nearly 50 percent of Government doctors prescriptions deviate from guidelines and if so, details thereof; and
- (c) whether the Government is considering to issue revised guidelines in consultation with the doctors and if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER  
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY  
WELFARE  
(SHRI PRATAPRAO JADHAV)**

(a) to (c) As per Rule 9(iii) of the Clinical Establishments (Central Government) Rules, 2012, for registration and continuation, every clinical establishment shall ensure compliance of the Standard Treatment Guidelines (STGs) as may be determined and issued by the Central Government or the State Government as the case may be, from time to time.

Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), under the Department of Health Research has recently developed and released the Standard Treatment Workflows (STWs) encompassing standardized protocols and drug treatment prescribed in the management of common and serious diseases encountered by the treating doctors across all levels of healthcare. The STWs provide the relevant key indicative actions and treatment for various disease conditions. These have to be utilized at various levels of healthcare starting from primary to tertiary level care and are made available by the Government of India and recommended to be adopted and followed by all healthcare providers across the country

uniformly. The STWs in 4 volumes cover wide range of 157 Medical/surgical diseases/conditions across 28 medical specialties (Details can be accessed at <https://main.icmr.nic.in/content/stws>). The STWs have been prepared by national subject experts across the country.

The study in reference, titled '*Evaluation of prescriptions from tertiary care hospitals across India for deviations from treatment guidelines & their potential consequences*', published in the Indian Journal of Medical Research (IJMR), has analysed the outpatient prescriptions by physicians of various specialties in tertiary care, teaching government and private hospitals. It is pertinent to note that the study has some limitations in the form, sample representation, single-time point data collection, potential bias in data collection, lack of longitudinal follow-up, etc. Thus, the study is inadequate to be generalized with respect to interpreted results.

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