

## DIET CHARGES FOR ECHS PATIENTS ADMITTED TO HOSPITAL

1. ECHS patients admitted to hospitals are entitled to free diet subject to their basic pension not exceeding specified amounts as laid down vide Govt of India, Min of Defence letter No 22 (08)/06/US(WE)/D(Res) dt 05 Dec 2006.

2. Several queries have been received from the environment regarding methodology for implementing the provision. The following clarifications are made :-

(a) **Treatment in Empanelled Hospitals.** Diet charges are included in the package rates' for various procedures which are negotiated with hospitals. For treatment procedures with no prescribed package rate, 'diet' is included in 'Room Rent' charges. Hence all treatment in Empanelled hospital is inclusive of diet and no additional charges are to be levied for the same.

(b) **Treatment in Service Hospital** Diet is not charged separately for treatment in Service Hospitals. However Hospital Stoppage' at prescribed rates for ESM/dependents is charged from patients which is not reimbursable.

(c) **Treatment in Govt Hospitals.** Diet charges are payable by ECHS beneficiaries. Reimbursement of the same is admissible as per actual, subject to entitlement as per basic pension scale laid down vide Govt letter referred in Para 1 above. In all such cases, where diet charges are admissible, reimbursement will be from code head 365/00 (medical treatment related expenditure).

(d) **Treatment in Emergency in Non Empanelled Hospital.** Reimbursement is admissible at CGHS rates. Hence CGHS stipulations as outlined at Para 1 (a) above are applicable, and diet charges' cannot be admitted separately.

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Dir (Med)  
For Managing Director

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