**“Monitoring of schedule H drugs under NTEP – strategy to improve the under reporting of tuberculosis patients in Himachal Pradesh**

**Background:** Tuberculosis is an ancient disease in India having highest mortality and morbidity among all infectious diseases. Himachal Pradesh Government has set an ambitious goal to meeting the targets of elimination of tuberculosis ahead of national target of 2025 and State came out with its own strategies and launched a new scheme “Mukhya Mantri Kshay Rog Nivarna Yojna” (MMKRNY) with a major focus to fill the gap in the infrastructure, knowledge gap among general population about TB and systematic screening of population. Schedule H is a class of prescription of drugs in India appearing as an appendix to drugs and cosmetic rules 1945 and drugs in Schedule H can not be sold over the counter without the prescription of qualified doctor. All anti TB drugs are included under the Schedule H drugs.

**Intervention:** Himachal Pradesh has a network of 5500 chemist in the urban and rural areas selling drugs to patients. A meeting was held under the chairmanship of secretary health involving the drug controller of Himachal Pradesh and drug inspectors of all districts for monitoring the sale of anti TB drugs in the state. Govt. notification has been issued to all stakeholder for monitoring of the sale of anti TB drugs. Fifteen batches of chemists were trained for schedule H drugs data reporting. Monthly reporting formats were developed for regular reporting which contain information name of patient along with address, contact number, name of doctor who prescribed the drugs, TB notification if notified, name of chemist who has sold anti TB drugs.

**Financial Impact:**  Nil

**Impact -** Selling of anti TB drugs over the counter has been reduced due continuous monitoring of sale of anti TB drugs and patient came into mainstream. The detail of TB cases notified by implementation of monitoring of drug sale of anti TB drugs as below –

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Year  | No of chemist selling Anti TB drugs  |  No of TB Cases notified |
| 2019 | 148 | 70 |
| 2020 | 127 | 21 |
| 2021 | 98 | 16 |

**Conclusion:** By monitoring the sale of anti TB drugs under reporting of tuberculosis cases can be improved. All patients can be given the Nikshay Poshan benefits. The public health action like contact tracing and TB preventive treatment can be initiated for prevention of tuberculosis

\*\*\*