

CITY ANCHOR SCHEME BENEFITS 6,091 PEOPLE FROM BELOW POVERTY LINE CATEGORY; RS 2.33 CRORE SPENT SO FAR ON BENEFICIARIES

Good response for Swasthya Bima Yojana in district

ANURADHA MASCARENHAS
JULY 22

THE Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY) has received a good response in the Pune district due to the coordinated efforts of Pune zilla parishad, New India Insurance Company and Dedicated Healthcare Services TPA Ltd.

For the first time, a total of 6,091 people living below poverty line have availed medical facility as part of the cashless health insurance introduced in the district since

October last year. A total of Rs 2.33 crore has been spent on the beneficiaries.

The family has to pay Rs 30 and can avail Rs 30,000 insurance, said Dr Sanjeev Kumar, CEO, Pune zilla parishad. The scheme is being implemented using the smart card technology and till now 57,767 families living below poverty line have been covered. The Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana is a central government scheme that aims to provide insurance cover to people below poverty line from major health shocks that

involve hospitalisation.

Amod Deshpande, senior manager, Dedicated Healthcare Services Pvt Ltd said, a total of 6,091 people have benefitted from the scheme and Rs 2.33 crore has been spent so far.

A card has been given to people living below the poverty line and for the purpose a total of 1.6 lakh people have been surveyed and shortlisted.

This scheme is implemented using smart card technology (same card as the new driving license). According to Deshpande the card has a micro chip

which has data related to the card holder stored in it. Finger prints and photograph of the family is stored in the chip and this information is used to authenticate the patient when he/she arrives to our hospital, said Dr Ashok Randive, health official, zilla parishad.

The initial claim of reporting and processing is done online through this card and software installed on hospital computer. Hospitals need to install the required hardware and software on the computer to authenticate such patients

and update the claims.

Block level workshops, involving gram sevaks, sarpanchs, anganwadi sevaks and health staff, were held to train them about the scheme. A film on the processes involved in the implementation was shown and role of each participant was explained. They were motivated to help in this cause of taking health care to the BPL families through RSBY, said Kumar.

There was initial reluctance on the part of private hospitals, but repeated discussions with them helped in convincing them

and as result we have been to empanel 166 hospitals in Pune district, said Deshpande. It was important to motivate card holders to get the benefits of RSBY as the level of awareness is very low among BPL families. Several health camps were conducted for the beneficiaries. In the district, more than 5,500 BPL families were examined and a total of 600 cases of catarrh, hysterectomy, arthroscopy, and other surgical procedures were conducted.