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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. M.12015/56/2020-MCH
17th August, 2020

Dear Colleague,

It has come to the notice of the Government that some organizations are advocating with the states to switch over from the routine antenatal Iron Folic Acid Supplementation to Multiple Micronutrients and Vitamin D supplementation (MMS), without adequate justification.

'WHO Updated Guidelines on Antenatal Care and Nutrition for Multiple Micronutrients and Vitamin D supplementation (MMS)' recommend the use of MMS which contain elemental iron of only 30mg or less, only in rigorous research context and not as a routine practice.

Since anemia is a public health problem in India with its prevalence among women in the age group of 15-19 years to be as high as 53% (NFHS IV), the Government launched the Anemia Mukht Bharat (AMB) programme in the year 2018 which recommends consumption of 60mg of elemental iron, for accelerating the annual rate of its decline from one to three percentage points. Hence if the 'new updated guidelines' with the recommendation of only 30 mg or less of elemental iron are adopted as a routine practice it could lead to compounding this public health problem further.

Therefore you are urged to continue to implement the existing strategies and guidelines sent by MoHFW which have been arrived at after detailed deliberations with all stakeholders and consensus.

Regards.

Yours sincerely,

(Rajesh Bhushan)

To

Additional Chief Secretary/Principal Secretary (Health) of all States and UTs.