

3. Recommendations

- I. *Health Directorate of Railway Board and Chief Medical Directors (CMDs) of Zonal Railways (ZRs) need to strengthen the process of formulation of budget with due consideration to the number of beneficiaries/patients and the infrastructural needs of the hospitals. The trend of allocation of fund for capital expenditure particularly in respect of medical equipments needs review for creating better medical facilities so as to minimise reference to non railway hospitals;*
- II. *Health Directorate of Railway Board needs to prioritise its initiative to fill in the existing vacancies in Doctors/Paramedics cadre instead of depending on hiring specialists and engaging contract medical practitioners. Available resources require rationale deployment by CMDs of ZRs on the basis of bed strength and number of patients being treated in the hospitals. Railway Board also needs to take effective steps for recruitment of specialists on regular basis;*
- III. *Health Directorate of Railway Board needs to strengthen the process of Centralised Purchase and adopt a uniform PAC list of medicines to minimise dependence on local purchase of medicines at higher rates;*
- IV. *Health Directorate of Railway Board and CMDs of ZRs need to ensure drug analysis within the prescribed time frame to prevent recurrence of supply of sub-standard drugs;*
- V. *Health Directorate of Railway Board needs to expedite the implementation of Hospital Management Information System so as to maintain Medical History Folders electronically and introduce Medical Identity Cards with photograph of individual beneficiary;*
- VI. *Health Directorate of Railway Board and CMDs of ZRs need to ensure periodical revision of diet charges recoverable from the indoor patients. In the Memorandum of Understanding with the non-railway hospitals for treatment at package rates, specific provision relating to diet charges may be incorporated; and*
- VII. *Health Directorate of Railway Board and CMDs of ZRs may provide proper bio-medical wastes treatment facilities in all hospitals of Zonal Railways.*