



SHORT COMMUNICATION

National AYUSH Morbidity and Standardized Terminology Portal: A Short Appraisal

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ABSTRACT

The National AYUSH Morbidity and Standardized Terminology Portal (NAMSTP) is a web-based portal exclusively dedicated to the centralized collection of morbidity statistics of various health care provider institutions under all AYUSH systems spread over the country. The portal was developed and is being maintained by the Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS), the apex body for research in Ayurvedic Sciences, Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India. This portal was formally launched by Shri Narendra Modi, the Hon'ble prime minister of India, on the occasion of 2nd Ayurveda Day (October 17, 2017). This portal has the potential to revolutionize morbidity statistics data collection and may have a huge impact on the future policy-making decision by bringing to light the contributions of various AYUSH systems in the health care delivery system of the country. The key features of the portal include the Morbidity Codes and Standardized Terminologies of all the AYUSH systems for unambiguous reporting, electronic data submission through individual institution login ids, and also an integrated electronic health records (EHR) system for detailed data collection for individual institutions.

Keywords: AYUSH morbidity codes, Electronic health records, Morbidity statistics collection, National AYUSH Morbidity and Standardized Terminology Portal, Standardized Ayurveda terminologies.

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INTRODUCTION

The CCRAS, Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India, is an apex body for undertaking, coordinating, formulating, developing and promoting research on scientific lines in Ayurvedic sciences through various activities, such as

medicinal plant research (medico-ethno botanical survey, pharmacognosy, and tissue culture), drug standardization, pharmacological research, clinical research, literary research and documentation, etc. Along with its core research activities, the CCRAS is also involved in various other activities for the promotion of Ayurveda on a global scale based on the directives received from the Ministry of AYUSH from time to time. In order to enhance the global footing of Ayurveda, Siddha, and Unani systems of medicine, the Ministry of AYUSH has been actively pursuing efforts to include AYUSH systems of medicine in the Traditional Medicine chapter of the International Classification of Diseases (ICD). In this regard, CCRAS has been involved in the development of Standardized Terminologies and Morbidity codes for various disease conditions mentioned in Ayurveda for uniform usage of terminologies and also to create a system for centralized morbidity data collection. Similarly, the Siddha and Unani Councils of Research are also involved in the development of Standardized Terminologies and Morbidity codes for their respective systems.

The core objective of this portal is to accurately project the contribution of various AYUSH systems in the health care sector of the country through centralized data pooling into a common portal. Apart from data collection, the portal has the potential to bring to light the various areas of health care that each system is contributing to and also in knowing the efficacy of various AYUSH systems in various morbidity conditions.

As a major step in this regard, a dedicated web portal named NAMSTP was launched by the Hon. prime minister of India on the occasion of 2nd Ayurveda Day (October 17, 2017).^{1,2} This portal, which was prepared and is being maintained by the CCRAS, is dedicated to the collection of morbidity statistics of all the AYUSH systems of medicines from all over the country in a centralized manner.

NATIONAL AYUSH MORBIDITY AND STANDARDIZED TERMINOLOGY PORTAL: THE NEED OF THE HOUR

Even though AYUSH systems play a major role in the health care system of the country, the efforts have not been reported well yet due to the absence of centralized data collection method regarding the number of patients being treated by the various institutions of AYUSH systems located all over the country as well as the common

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morbidity conditions which are being managed by the various AYUSH systems. The major roadblocks/challenges in this regard were the absence of uniform data collection mechanism and absence of standardized terminologies for uniformity in diagnostic terms throughout the country. The former can be solved by constituting a dedicated web portal for centralized reporting of morbidity statistics and the latter can be solved by the development of standardized terminologies of respective AYUSH systems of medicine. In this regard, each terminology is assigned a specific code. The part of the terminologies that includes the names of the various morbidity conditions known as the Morbidity codes has been developed in line with the system of ICD of the World Health Organization (WHO). These Morbidity codes have been developed and published in the name National Ayurveda Morbidity Codes in case of Ayurveda.³ In a similar way, the other AYUSH systems like Unani and Siddha have also prepared and published their respective morbidity codes. Since Homeopathy, Yoga, and Naturopathy systems use the same terminologies for diagnosis as biomedicine, they

follow the morbidity codes of the ICD as such. All these morbidity codes have been uploaded on the NAMSTP web portal accessible at www.namstp.ayush.gov.in for public utility.

Highlights of Web-based NAMSTP

- Dual coding system for reporting in the case of A-S-U systems.
- Homeopathy and Yoga and Naturopathy systems of medicine may report by single coding system by ICD-10/11 of the WHO.
- Registered institutions have been given their own user ids and passwords for secure access.
- Standardized terminologies of respective systems can be accessed through the portal.
- Coding of ICD-10 of the WHO can be referred through this portal.

Benefits of Development of NAMSTP

- Real-time morbidity data collection.



Annexure 1: Shri Narendra Modi, Hon'ble prime minister of India, launched NAMSTP on the occasion of 2nd Ayurveda Day on October 17, 2017 at the All India Institute of Ayurveda, Sarita Vihar, New Delhi

Annexure 2: View of NAMSTP home page

- Identification of areas of strengths of the various systems under AYUSH.
- Electronic health records systems integrated with morbidity codes.
- The volume of services provided by AYUSH systems can help in future policy decision making.
- The diagnostic guidelines provided along with the disease would serve as a helping tool in diagnosis and also enable cross-verification of diagnosis with the case records.
- Helpful in regulating the health care delivery system in AYUSH systems by providing standardized diagnostic terminologies, thus overcoming the barrier of the diagnosis being written in Sanskrit-Arabic-Tamil languages in case of A-S-U systems.
- The diagnostic codes can serve as a tool for documentation in various other programs, such as outreach activities.

CONCLUSION

This is the first ever initiative taken by the Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India, as a stepping stone for sustainable maintenance of AYUSH health statistics across the country by adopting uniform terminologies. Furthermore, unique code-based AYUSH terminologies would certainly bring an uniform pattern of indicating disease terminologies for academic, research, as well as clinical practice. The ultimate transformation would be uniform presentation of evidences in the country and the world at large. The development and maintenance of this portal would be an important milestone for reporting the contribution of AYUSH systems of medicine in the health care system of the country.

The stakeholders may register themselves in the portal to enable them to utilize this facility. A view of

the web portal is available at Annexures 1 and 2 for ready references.

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हिंदी सारांश

राष्ट्रीय आयुष रुग्णता और मानक शब्दावली पोर्टल (एन. ए. एम. एस. टी. पी.) – एक संक्षिप्त मूल्यांकन

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राष्ट्रीय आयुष रुग्णता और मानक शब्दावली पोर्टल (एन. ए. एम. एस. टी. पी.), सम्पूर्ण देश में फैले हुए आयुष प्रणालियों के सभी स्वास्थ्य सेवा प्रदाता संस्थानों के रुग्णता संबंधी आंकड़ों के एकीकृत संग्रह हेतु विशेष रूप से समर्पित एक वेब आधारित पोर्टल है। इस पोर्टल को विकसित करने एवं इसके रखरखाव का कार्य आयुष मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार के अधीन आयुर्वेदीय विज्ञान में अनुसन्धान कार्य करने हेतु स्थापित शीर्ष संस्था केन्द्रीय आयुर्वेदीय विज्ञान अनुसन्धान परिषद (सी. सी. आर. ए. एस.) के द्वारा किया जा रहा है। इस पोर्टल का शुभारम्भ भारत के माननीय प्रधानमंत्री श्री नरेन्द्र मोदी द्वारा द्वितीय आयुर्वेद दिवस (17 अक्टूबर 2017) के अवसर पर औपचारिक रूप से किया गया था।

इस पोर्टल के विकास से रोगग्रस्तता के आंकड़ों के संग्रह में अभूतपूर्व बदलाव की संभावना है, साथ ही इस पोर्टल का देश की स्वास्थ्य सेवा प्रणाली में विभिन्न आयुष चिकित्सा पद्धतियों के योगदान को प्रकाश में लाकर भविष्य की नीति बनाने के फैसले पर बड़ा प्रभाव हो सकता है। स्पष्ट रिपोर्टिंग के लिए सभी आयुष प्रणालियों के रुग्णता कोड और मानकीकृत शब्दावली का समावेश इसमें किया गया है, सभी संस्थाओं को निजी रूप से प्रदत्त लॉगिन आईडी प्रदान की गयी है। जिसके माध्यम से इलेक्ट्रॉनिक डाटा जमा करना एवं संस्थानों के विस्तृत डेटा संग्रह हेतु एकीकृत इलेक्ट्रॉनिक स्वास्थ्य रिकॉर्ड्स (ई.एच.आर.) प्रणाली इस पोर्टल की मुख्य विशेषताएं हैं।

