

Chapter - 12

TAMIL NADU MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION

12.1. Organisation:

The Tamil Nadu Medical Services Corporation (TNMSC), incorporated on 01.07.1994 under the Indian Companies Act 1956, has grown in its functional importance and stature over the last 13 years. It is now an ISO 9001:2000 Certified Organization. The activities of the Corporation have expanded from the basics of procurement and supply of drugs to the medical institutions, to providing diagnostic facilities, procurement, storage and supply of drugs to the Veterinary Department, procurement and supply of high value equipments to the various medical institutions in the State, and maintenance of Pay Ward and medical equipments.

12.2. Activities:

12.2.1. Procurement, Storage and Distribution of Human drugs:

The Tamil Nadu Medical Services Corporation Limited ensures the ready availability of quality drugs, medicines, surgical and suture materials to the Government Medical Institutions throughout the State.

12.2.2. Procurement, Storage and Distribution of Veterinary Drugs:

The Tamil Nadu Medical Services Corporation is also procuring and distributing the drugs, Chemicals and Liquid Nitrogen to the Government Hospitals under the Directorate of Veterinary Services, throughout the State by adopting a streamlined procedure for their procurement, storage and distribution. The Drugs, Medicines, surgical and sutures materials are distributed to the Government Medical Institutions through the Drug Warehouses in Tamil Nadu by pass book system based on the financial allotment made by the respective Head of Department.

12.2.3. Operation of CT and MRI Centres:

12.2.3.1. The Corporation is maintaining 40 C.T. Scanners at 37 Centres in Government Hospitals and 2 MRI Scan Centres one each at Government General Hospital, Chennai and Government Rajaji Hospital, Madurai to provide scanning facility to the public on nominal charges. Six more MRI scanners were procured, one each at the Medical College Hospitals at Thirunelveli, Thanjavur, Thiruchirapalli, Coimbatore, Vellore and Stanley Medical College, Chennai at a total cost of Rs.28.74 crores and supplied. The Centres at Thirunelveli, Thiruchirappalli, Coimbatore, Vellore and Stanley Medical College Hospitals have already commenced. The other centre at Thanjavur will commence shortly. One more MRI will be procured and installed at Government Hospital, Erode shortly.

12.2.3.2. Similarly, one 64 Slice C.T. Scan for the Government General Hospital, Chennai was procured and installed. Another 64 slice C.T. Scanner would be procured and installed at Government Rajaji Hospital, Madurai shortly. The process for procurement of C.T. Scanners for the Government Hospitals at Palani, Thiruppathur (Vellore District) and Aruppukkottai is in progress and these C.T. Scanners would be installed shortly.

12.2.3.3. The Corporation is also maintaining 2 Lithotripsy machines, one each at Government General Hospital, Chennai and Government Rajaji Hospital, Madurai. These machines were procured at a total cost of Rs.3.00 crores.

12.2.4. Maintenance of G.I. Bleed & Hepato Biliary Centre in Government Stanley Hospital, Chennai:

The ISO 9001 certified GI Bleed and Hepato Biliary Centre (special ward) maintained by TNMSC is functioning as a separate unit under the Surgical Gastro-enterology Department in Government Stanley Hospital, Chennai. Required infrastructure facilities are provided by TNMSC out of the funds generated by the Centre.

12.2.5. Liver Transplant Centre:

The Tamil Nadu Medical Services Corporation provides infrastructure facilities for the establishment of "Liver Transplant Centre" at Government Stanley Medical College, Chennai.

12.2.6. Maintenance of Special Class Maternity Pay Ward in Institute of Obstetrics and Gynaecology and Government Hospital for Women and Children (I.O.G.):

The Maintenance of Paying Maternity Ward in Institute of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, and Government Hospital for Women and Children Egmore, Chennai has been entrusted to the Tamil Nadu Medical Services Corporation, and this ward has been functioning from 19.02.2003 onwards and the TNMSC is effectively maintaining the Ward in the Institute of Obstetrics and Gynaecology and Government Hospital for Women and Children, Egmore, Chennai.

12.2.7. Maintenance of Special Class Pay Ward in Kasturba Gandhi Hospital for Women and Children, Chennai:

The Government have directed the TNMSC to take up the infrastructure facility for the establishment of Payment Maternity Ward at Kasturba Gandhi Hospital for Women and Children, Chennai and this ward has been commissioned from 03.05.2004.

12.2.8. Maintenance of Pay Ward in Government General Hospital, Chennai:

206 bedded pay ward is functioning with logistics support for maintenance by the TNMSC, and nominal administrative charges are collected from the affordable patients.

12.2.9. Master Health Checkup Scheme:

The financial control and implementation of Master Health Checkup Scheme in Government General Hospital, Chennai is brought under the purview of TNMSC from 01.04.2001 onwards and TNMSC is effectively maintaining the scheme in Government General Hospital, Chennai.

12.2.10. Regional Diagnostic Centres:

The Tamil Nadu Medical Services Corporation is maintaining the Regional Diagnostic Centres at Seven Government District Headquarters Hospitals at Villupuram, Virudhunagar, Thiruvannamalai, Thiruppur, Ramanathapuram, Namakkal and Pudukkottai.

12.2.11. Maintenance of Equipments at various Government Medical Institutions / Hospitals:

The TNMSC also maintains all the medical equipments in the Government medical institutions to ensure uninterrupted diagnostic services.

12.2.12. Construction of Warehouses:

The TNMSC has scientifically designed and constructed Drug Warehouses in 25 convenient locations at District Headquarters. 2 more warehouses at Perambular and Krishnagiri would be constructed shortly.

12.2.13. Purchase and Supply of Medical Equipments:

The hi-tech and hi-value medical equipments required for the Government Hospitals are procured and supplied by TNMSC based on specific Government Orders. The TNMSC is also the procurement agency for Tamil Nadu Health Systems Project aided by World Bank.

12.2.14. Consultancy Services:

The TNMSC is a brand name in Drug Logistics and Warehousing for the whole country. Many States in the country are emulating the principles followed by this Corporation. The TNMSC has taken up and completed the consultancy works for the Health & Family Welfare Department, Government of Andhra Pradesh and Rajasthan.

12.3. Procurement of Drugs:

The Tamil Nadu Medical Services Corporation is procuring 276 drugs and medicines, 230 new Generation Speciality drugs and 174 Surgical and Suture items from reputed manufacturers, selected on the basis of transparent open tender system. Similarly, the Corporation is procuring 158 drugs, Chemical and liquid Nitrogen for the Animal Husbandry Department. The Warehouse-wise requirement of drugs, placing of supply orders and distribution of drugs are monitored through a well knit computer system.

12.4. Quality Assurance:

The Corporation has established a Quality Control Section to ensure quality of drugs procured through the Corporation. The Quality Control Section draws samples from each batch of supply and gets them tested in empanelled analytical laboratories (selected through open tender system) to ensure the quality of drugs. Only the drugs, which pass quality tests are issued to Hospitals.

12.5. Distribution:

The Government Medical Institutions are provided with pass books based on the allotment made by the respective Head of Department and that the institutions can draw their requirement of medicines etc. from the warehouse to which they are attached. The Corporation maintains about 3 months ground stock of drugs in the warehouses for ensuring uninterrupted supply to hospitals.

12.6. Website:

The TNMSC maintains the Health & Family Welfare Department Website (www.tnhealth.org). This Website provides Health chat between 4.00 p.m. and 6.00 p.m. where public can access the specialists for getting expert opinion.

12.7. Other Activities:

12.7.1. The Government of Tamil Nadu permitted TNMSC to procure and supply the required Medicine Kits for the willing States under National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) and for National AIDS Control Organisation, Government of India. The States of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram have been supplied with the drugs under NRHM.

12.7.2. The TNMSC has been appointed as procurement agency for equipments for Tamil Nadu Health Systems Project aided by World Bank. TNMSC is acting as procurement agency for procurement of testing kits, blood bank consumables etc. for Tamil Nadu State AIDS Control Society.

12.7.3. The Corporation is also serving other institutions like Tamil Nadu Electricity Board dispensaries, Municipal and Corporation dispensaries, Panchayat Union dispensaries, Prison and Police Medical Hospitals, Juvenile Homes, Rehabilitation Homes, Co-operative Sugar factories, Veterinary Institutions, Transport Corporation Dispensaries etc.