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## Antibiotic resistance

# High mortality in Indian private hospitals

Kalyan Ray

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Mortality in Indian private hospitals is "significantly higher" in patients infected by multi-drug resistant or extremely drug-resistant strains of bacteria.

The death rate varies between 13 and 29% depending on the type of bacteria, says a new research on more than 5,000 patients admitted in 10 top private hospitals in five metropolises, including

Bengaluru, in 2015.

The results make it very clear — those who acquire drug-resistant infections, as opposed to similar drug-susceptible infections, have greater odds of mortality. Pathogens were classified as MDR or XDR based on drug susceptibility profiles.

Study results indicate patients who acquired MDR bacterial infections were 1.57 times more likely to die, compared to patients who respond to antibiotics.



Patients who acquired XDR infections were 2.65 times more likely to die.

"These mortality rates are much higher than in high-income countries.

### HEALTH THREAT

Death rate in Indian pvt hospitals: **13 to 29%**

Mortality in pvt hospitals in the west: **7%**

The study: **5,000** patients, **10** hospitals, **5** cities

The overall mortality rate among all participants was 13.1% with mortality as high as 29% among patients infected with *A. baumannii*. In the west, mortality rates are

typically under 7%," said Ramanan Laxminarayan, lead author of the study at the Center for Disease Dynamics, Economics and Policy, Washington DC. "The study also bunks the perception that private hospitals are cleaner," he said. Two hospitals were from Bengaluru while the rest were from Delhi, Mumbai, Jaipur and Kolkata. The findings were published in the journal *Infection Control and Hospital Epidemiology*.

# Railways plan to set up 10 medical colleges

'Process at a nascent stage right now'

YUTHIKA BHARGAVA  
NEW DELHI

The Railways are planning to establish medical colleges to offer postgraduate courses at 10 of its existing hospitals across India.

"We are thinking of opening medical colleges. The process is in a very nascent stage right now," a senior Railways official said, adding that the national transporter has already identified 10 hospitals with 300 or more beds across India, where there courses will be taught.

The official said that the proposal had been cleared by the Railway Board and now, the Railways was in the process of getting permissions from the Medical Council of India (MCI).

"We are in discussions with the Medical Council of India as well as the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare... after getting approvals, we will figure out details on investments and the number of students, and form a roadmap as per their guidelines and processes," the official said. Additionally, the Railways will also sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with local colleges and universities.

## 125 hospitals now

Currently, a total of 125 Railway hospitals, with a capacity of about 40,000 beds, offer primary, secondary as well as tertiary healthcare services to about 65 lakh be-



An official said that the proposal has been cleared by the Railway Board and the nod from the Medical Council of India is awaited.

neficiaries. These include current Railway employees, retired employees, and their families. These hospitals employ about 2,500 doctors and 40,000 paramedical staff.

The shortlisted hospitals include nine Central hospitals and one Divisional hospital, including the Northern Railways Central Hospitals, Eastern Railways Central Hospitals, Southern Railways Central Hospitals, North Eastern Railways Hospital, Western Railways Central Hospitals, and the Kharagpur Divisional Hospital.

The Railways official said that, to start with, the plan was to offer only postgraduate courses for doctors. "We already teach over 250 students for Diplomate National Board Course in seven Central hospitals. These hospitals are part of the 10 selected hospitals. We now plan to add PG facilities like a General MD (Doctor of Medicine)," the official added.

Earlier, the government-owned Coal India had proposed to establish medical as well as engineering colleges in mining areas. However, no progress was made on the proposal.