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). 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...
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. 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.
• 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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(एन. प्र. एम. एस. टी. पी.) – एक संक्षिप्त भूमिका

1विनोद के. लवणिया, 2टी. साकेत राम, 3टी. राकेश नारायण, 4नारायण श्रीकांत
5कर्तार एस. धीमान

राष्ट्रीय आयुष रुग्णता और मानक शब्दावली पोर्टल (एन. प्र. एम. एस. टी. पी.), समूह के देश में फैले हुए आयुष प्रणालियों के माध्यम से स्वास्थ्य सेवा प्रदाता संस्थाओं के रुग्णता संस्थापक आर्थिक संस्थानों के एकीकृत संघ हेतु विशेष रूप से उपयोगिता एक बेबी आयुष पोर्टल है। इस पोर्टल को विकसित करने एवं इसके सहयोग का कार्य आयुष मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार के अधीन आयुष्मान विभाग में अनुसंधान कार्य करने हेतु स्थापित सीरीज संस्था केंद्रीय आयुष्मान विभाग अनुसंधान परिषद (सी. एन. एच. पी.) के द्वारा किया जा रहा है। इस पोर्टल का सुभाष भारत के माननीय प्रधानमंत्री श्री नरेंद्र मोदी द्वारा द्वितीय आयुष्मान दिवस (17 अगस्त 2017) के अवसर पर अधिवेशनक रूप से किया गया था।

इस पोर्टल के निर्माण से रोगरक्षा के सार्वजनिक संस्थाओं के लिए मानक प्रवाह और मानकीकृत शब्दावली प्रदान का प्रभाव में लाकर भावना की नीति बनाने के फॉलोप के रूप से बल भाव को सीमाता है। स्पेक्ट्रम मैथिलिंग के लिए सभी आयुष प्रणालियों के रुग्णता कोड और मानकीकृत शब्दावली का समावेश इससे किया गया है, सभी संस्थानों की निर्मल रूप से प्रदत्त लोकता आईडी प्रदान की गयी है, जिसके माध्यम से इलेक्ट्रॉनिक झटपट ज्ञान करना एवं संस्थानों के विस्तृत जानकारी संग्रह हेतु एकीकृत इलेक्ट्रॉनिक स्वास्थ्य रिकॉर्ड्स (ई-एचजी) प्रणाली इस पोर्टल का मुख्य विशेषता है।