

## **Terms of Reference**

### **Short-term Junior Consultant-Quality and Patient Safety (HAI Surveillance)**

National Health Systems Resource Centre (NHSRC) is a technical support organisation under the National Health Mission, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare. NHSRC channelises required technical assistance for the MoHFW and the States for strengthening the health systems and other related domains. Such requirements are dynamic in nature. Work at the NHSRC is organised around eight divisions, namely – Community Processes & Comprehensive Primary Care, Healthcare Financing, Healthcare Technology, Human Resources for Health and Integrated Planning, IT, Knowledge Management, Public Health Administration and Quality and Patient Safety.

If you have a commitment to health Quality and excellence, here is a unique chance to work with a team committed to shaping the public health landscape in India. The position offers you to work with a transdisciplinary team, you can discover, adapt, co-create, and disseminate solutions to multiple challenges related to service delivery systems, universal primary health care, human resources for health, community processes, health financing, Quality of care, public health planning and health promotion. This is an opportunity to support health systems strengthening at scale, learn from district and sub district implementation, undertake knowledge translation, and enable realization of the vision of universal health coverage.

For improving Quality of care of services, delivered at the public health facilities, National Quality Assurance Standards were developed under the National Health Mission. In the year 2013, Quality Assurance Operational Guidelines and Quality Standards for District Hospitals were launched by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare. This was followed by development and launch of Quality Standards for Community Health Centres (CHCs) and Primary Health Centres (PHCs), followed by Quality Standards for Urban PHCs and SHC-AAM in the subsequent years. There is an explicit system of measurement of extent of compliance against each of the National Quality Assurance Standard (NQAS). Each Quality standard has measurable elements and checkpoints. Since then, the programme has evolved. Many standalone certification programmes, such as LaQshya, Kayakalp, MusQan, NQAS for IPHL & CLMC, AEFI Surveillance, etc. have been added.

Quality and Patient Safety Division (QPS), NHSRC performs task of the secretariat on behalf of the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare in implementation of National Quality Assurance Standards at public health facilities in States/ UTs. Under this mandate, QPS division performs two major roles, first being setting the standards for different level of

health facilities and programmes as per need and supporting the states in its implementation through capacity building and handholding; and second function is of verification of attainment of standards at the health facilities through a robust system of the Quality certification.

The division also support the Ministry of Health & Family Planning, GOI and the states in strengthening infection prevention and control (IPC) systems and HAI surveillance mechanisms, ensuring that surveillance findings are effectively linked to quality improvement actions at facility and system levels. The HAI Surveillance Guidelines for Secondary Care Healthcare Facilities were launched in August 2025. Recently, the Division has been designated as a WHO collaborating Centre for Patient Safety.

To support the implementation and operationalisation of HAI Surveillance Guidelines across district hospitals and equivalent secondary care facilities, NHSRC proposes to engage a Consultant (HAI Surveillance) under the Quality and Patient Safety Division. The Consultant will provide technical support to States/UTs for surveillance implementation, data analysis, capacity building, and integration of HAI surveillance with existing quality assurance programmes. The incumbent is expected to have good clinical background and excellent writing skills.

Support to the States requires extensive travel to the states, which may be about one third of the time. The Position reports to Advisor- Quality Patient Safety Division and is on Contractual basis.

### **Roles & Responsibilities:**

Expected roles of the incumbent are summarised below –

- Support the implementation and operationalisation of national HAI Surveillance Guidelines in District Hospitals and equivalent secondary care facilities.
- Assist States/UTs in establishing and strengthening facility-level HAI surveillance systems, including case definitions, data flow, reporting formats, and feedback mechanisms.
- Provide technical support for data collection, validation, analysis, interpretation, and reporting of HAI indicators at the facility, district, and state levels.
- Support in capacity building of healthcare workers (clinical, nursing, laboratory, and infection control staff) through training, on-site mentoring, and supportive supervision related to HAI surveillance and infection prevention practices.
- Coordination with stakeholders for using existing IT networks
- Support the implementation and capacity-building of key indicators

- Assist in the development and refinement of standard operating procedures (SOPs), tools, training materials, dashboards, and reporting templates for HAI surveillance.
- Analyse surveillance data to identify trends, risks, and priority areas, and support the formulation of corrective and preventive actions at facility and system levels.
- Support integration of HAI surveillance with existing quality assurance frameworks
- Assist the Division in preparing technical reports, policy briefs, presentations, and review documents for internal use, States/UTs, and the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.
- Undertake field visits to States/UTs and healthcare facilities for implementation support, monitoring, and review, as required.
- Any other task, as per need of the Quality and Patient Safety Division

### **Duration and Location**

The consultancy is a short-term position for three months and is an extension based on project needs and performance. The consultant will be based at the Quality and Patient Safety Division, NHSRC, New Delhi

### **Qualification & Experience:**

For achieving above-mentioned deliverables, the applicant is expected to possess following qualifications & Experience –

#### **Essential Qualification –**

1. Full-time Post Graduate Degree in Microbiology including the integrated PG degrees.
2. Post-qualification experience of at least one year in Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) and Surveillance systems (preferably HAI / AMR / patient safety surveillance), or Quality improvement initiatives in healthcare settings
3. Knowledge of MS Office (Excel, PowerPoint, Word, Outlook etc.)

Note-

- Candidates with experience in public health, quality management systems, and use of statistical tools will be preferred
- Only shortlisted candidates will be called for an interview.
- The candidates may be subjected to a written test and a presentation to assess their writing and analytical skills and language proficiency.

**Age Limit:** 40 years & below. (As on the date of receiving the application)

**Work Location:** New Delhi, NHSRC; Opportunity to gain hands-on experience of the public health canvas of states and districts. Travel to states and districts may be involved.

**Remuneration Range:** Between Rs.40,000/- to Rs. 70,000/-

\*Fee offered within the band will be commensurate with qualification and experience.

**Note:** As this is a short-term assignment.

- Preference will be given to candidates residing within Delhi/NCR region.
- The selected candidate will be required to join within 7 days.

**How to apply:** Candidates are requested to fill out the online application correctly which is available on the NHSRC website (<http://nhsrccindia.org>). Applications will be accepted in the prescribed online application format only. The last date for receiving applications is **10<sup>th</sup> February 2026**.