

T- 12011/13/2012-NPCB.  
National Programme for Control of Blindness  
Directorate General of Health Services  
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi.  
Dated: 1<sup>st</sup> August' 2012

To

All State Programme Officers (NPCB)

Subject: Observance of 27<sup>th</sup> National Fortnight on Eye Donation from 25<sup>th</sup> August to 8<sup>th</sup> September 2012 under National Programme for Control of Blindness.

Dear Sir,

As you are aware, there are approximately 0.12 million corneal blind persons in the country and many other with visual impairment due to corneal diseases and about 20,000 new cases are added every year. Majority of such blind persons are young and their sight could be restored only by a corneal transplantation. Though there has been a progress in Eye Donation, approximately about 45,000 to 50,000 eyes are collected every year with the sincere efforts of all Eye Banks working in government and nongovernmental sectors, as against the requirement of 0.12 million implantable corneas. The collection of donor materials is very low even in metropolitan cities and towns, which have the facilities for treatment of corneal blindness. In order to highlight this fact and to intensify educational and motivational efforts, a national "Fortnight on Eye Donation" is observed all over the country from 25<sup>th</sup> August to 8<sup>th</sup> September every year.

The objective of Eye Donation Fortnight is to create mass public awareness and to bridge the gap between demand and supply of cornea and to come forward and pledge their eyes for donation after death. People should make Eye Donation as a family tradition, ultimately transforming pledges into actual donation after death. The major part of the problem lies with young blind persons in the productive age group who lose their vision due to Vitamin "A" deficiency, malnutrition, injuries, and infections, congenital and other factors. Therefore, there is an urgent need to create awareness among the general public about the preventive aspects of corneal blindness and to come forward to pledge their eyes for donation after demise so that corneal blindness could be treated.

The eye banks therefore have been told to strictly follow Medical Standard of Eye Banking alone for better results.

Further, it is essential to keep a tag on major hospitals where mortality rate is high (at least 4 to 5 deaths per day). Such hospitals have potential where the Eye Donation Counselor /Social Workers can contact the Eye Donor Family through the designated with medical staff through whom the quality tissues could be harvested.

It has also been decided that Eye banks functioning across the country may be released funds for organizing IEC campaign during the fortnight from the IEC funds earmarked for 2012-13 in the PIP, as per details given below:

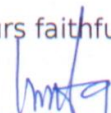
S.No.	Financial Assistance to Eye Banks for Amount (Rs.) observing Eye Donation Fortnight, 2012 considering the Transplant Rate of Minimum 40% during 2011-12.	
1	Cornea Collection up to 100	10,000/-
2	Cornea Collection from 101 to 200	20,000/-
3	Cornea Collection from 201 to 300	30,000/-
4	Cornea Collection from 301 to 400	40,000/-
5	Cornea Collection from 401 to 500	50,000/-
6	Cornea Collection from 501 & above	60,000/-

In addition, it has also been decided that State Programme Officer (NPCB) may also incur expenditure for organizing IEC activities as per approved PIP during the fortnight with full justification to promote Eye Donation through Rallies, Walkathon, Hoardings, Races, Prize Distribution, Drawing Competition, and Essay writing Contests. BDO's, District Education Officer, Local authorities may also be involved in these activities.

It is once again reiterated that during the fortnight, Medical colleges, Regional Institutes of ophthalmology and NGO hospitals are encouraged to collect more eyes through Hospital Cornea Retrieval Programme (HCRP) and get it transplanted to the corneal blind patients. A suitable award may also be given by DHS/SHS to institutions / individuals who perform maximum number of Eye collection/ corneal transplantation during the fortnight.

In the last I would request you to provide a feed back in the form of a brief report together with photographs/ success story to this office latest by 30-9-2012 positively so that the event could be publicized in the forthcoming NPCB-India quarterly News Letter (Oct-Dec, 2012).

Yours faithfully,

  
(Dr.N.K. Agarwal)  
Deputy Director General (NPCB)  
Phone No: 011 -23061594

Copy to:

1. All Director of Regional Institute of Ophthalmology.
2. All Regional Directors, Health & Family Welfare.