

International Panel Discussion

Theme: Transparency, Ethics and Integrity in Healthcare and Pharmaceuticals Sector

Date: 17th September 2020

Time: 6:30 pm to 8.00 pm (IST, GMT + 5.30)

Organizers:

Centre of Excellence for Governance, Ethics and Transparency (CEGET)-
UN Global Compact Network India

And

Indian Institute of Health Management Research (IIHMR), Jaipur, India

Overview:

Transparency is a vital component to build an effective and efficient health care system and the lack of transparency in healthcare threatens to erode public trust. Healthcare organizations need strong ethical foundations to reinforce the culture of 'trust' between the caregiver and the patients. The shape and dynamics of healthcare sector is changing fast. A momentous shift from 'combination of independent smaller professional clinics and public-sector hospitals' to 'increasing consolidation with rising power of corporate hospitals' has significantly influenced practices in the healthcare organizations. Similarly looking at the bigger pharmaceutical companies, one can find the presence of globally connected supply-chains in these companies.

The shifting focus of the organizations in these sectors towards profit and growth, often negates the issue of price and data transparency which allows patients to make informed decisions about their healthcare and knowing about the quality of goods or services on offer, in advance and ensuring they are not 'ripped off'. Globally, the information transparency

has become the focal point in healthcare industry. Patients need to have access to the prescribed treatment, records, and medical history.

The COVID-19 pandemic has helped shed light on the longer-term structural reforms needed in the healthcare system, which include telehealth investment and medical supply chain tracking and coordination improvements. Any lapse on the ethics and integrity of the organizations or its' supply-chain ecosystem may have severe consequences on the quality of service as well as satisfaction and well-being of the patients. Qualitative reforms in purchasing and procurement practices help in better decision-making, reduces waste, prevents corruption and fraud, minimises conflicts of interest and provides better value for money for governments and ultimately citizens.

The panel will focus on issues related to inter-related dynamics of ethics, transparency, and integrity with special reference to healthcare and pharmaceutical sectors. The panel shall also deliberate on role of collective action as well as required structural reforms in the healthcare system for transparent and ethics compliance.

The panel discussion will explore the challenges and possibilities around Transparency, Ethics, and Integrity in Healthcare and Pharmaceutical sectors.