Specialized Healthcare & Medical Education Department, Government of the Punjab

PHIMC
Punjab Health Initiative Management Company



Chief Minister's Children Heart Surgery Program

Background

- Pakistan has one of the highest child mortality rates globally, with over 386,000 children under the age of five dying each year.
- Congenital Heart Disease (CHD) is a major contributor to these deaths, with around **50,000 children** born with CHD annually—**Punjab having the highest burden**.
- Many of these children face long waiting times, often up to **2 years**, for life-saving heart surgeries, leading to complications or loss of life.

Aim of the Program

The initiative is a comprehensive, **long-term strategy** to ensure that **children in Punjab** with **CHD** receive the timely and high-quality care they deserve.

Program Overview

To tackle this critical health issue, the Government of Punjab has launched the **Chief Minister's Children Heart Surgery Program**, in September 2024, to provides timely and quality treatment for children and patients diagnosed with **Congenital Heart Disease (CHD)**.

The program was designed to substantially increase pediatric cardiac treatment capacity by:

- Expanding pediatric cardiac surgery capacity in public-sector hospitals.
- Utilizing private-sector capacity for cases that cannot be accommodated within available public-sector capacity.
- Establishing a centralized digital database for patient registration and case tracking.
- Digitizing all patient records under the supervision of an Advisory Committee for efficient case tracking and follow-ups.
- Improving coordination between public and private empaneled hospitals.
- Monitoring patient cases through a centralized mechanism and program oversight structures.

The planned capacity included an increase in public-sector pediatric cardiac surgery capacity from approximately **2,045 to 2,950 surgeries annually**, with private hospitals providing additional capacity of approximately **3,350 surgeries annually**, creating a combined planned capacity of more than **6,300 procedures annually**.

The program also ensures **strict monitoring and accountability** through an Advisory Committee, which oversee case referrals, financial allocations, and performance evaluation of participating hospitals.

Eligibility Criteria

- Patients of **any age** diagnosed with Congenital Heart Disease (CHD).
- Patients from **all regions of Pakistan** can benefit from the program.
- Patients currently registered on **waiting lists** at public hospitals

How to Apply?

- Patients must approach a designated public hospital for registration and medical assessment.
- The patient's case is entered into the centralized system and assessed by the relevant medical team.
- If treatment cannot be accommodated in the public-sector hospital due to capacity or other program-related factors, the patient may be officially referred to an empaneled private hospital.
- Patients cannot directly approach private empaneled hospitals under the program.

A Commitment to a Healthier Future

The **Chief Minister's Children Heart Surgery Program** is more than just a healthcare initiative; it is a **lifeline for thousands of children and their families**. By integrating the efficiency of **public-sector with private-sector capacity**, the program exemplifies a **forward-thinking approach** to addressing Pakistan's critical healthcare challenges.

This initiative stands as a **testament to the Punjab Government's commitment** to saving lives and ensuring a healthier future for the population of Punjab.

Assistance & Information

Helpline (24/7): 0800-07542
WhatsApp: 0333-6756390 — Mon–Sat, 8:00 AM–11:00 PM
Landline: 042-99066000, 042-99066001 — Mon–Sat, 8:00 AM–11:00 PM

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