NABH/CGHS/2026/00271 January 12, 2026

Notification

Subject: Processing of Applications Received on or after 22.12.2025 under NABH-QCI for CGHS Empanelment

This notification is issued in reference to the numerous queries received by NABH regarding the eligibility criteria under the CGHS empanelment programme and the status of applications received under the NABH-QCI CGHS empanelment process.

The Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS), Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India, has issued Office Memorandum No. **F.No.5-34/CGHS/HEC(HQ)/2025 dated 22 December 2025**, inviting fresh applications for empanelment of private Healthcare Organisations (HCOs) under various categories.

In reference to the aforesaid Office Memorandum, it is hereby informed that **all applications received by NABH-QCI on or after 22 December 2025 shall be processed strictly in accordance with the revised eligibility criteria stipulated in the said Office Memorandum**.

Please note that compliance with **NABH Accreditation, NABH Entry-Level Certification, or NABH-QCI recommendation requirements**, as prescribed by CGHS for the respective category of healthcare facility, is one of the key determinants for eligibility and categorisation under the **NABH and Non-NABH categories** for CGHS empanelment.

Accordingly:

1. Applications that do **not fulfil the prescribed eligibility criteria** as per the CGHS Office Memorandum dated 22.12.2025 shall **not be considered** under the NABH-QCI empanelment process and shall be **closed**.
2. Applications submitted by Healthcare Organisations (HCOs) that are **already NABH accredited or certified** shall **not be considered** under the NABH-QCI empanelment process and shall be **closed**.
3. Ongoing and fresh applicants are advised to **carefully examine the applicable eligibility requirements** before submission, as NABH-QCI shall not be responsible for applications rendered ineligible due to **non-compliance with CGHS criteria**.
4. It is further clarified that the **application fee paid by Healthcare Organisations that have applied prior to 22.12.2025** for NABH-QCI recommendation and/or are already Entry-Level NABH certified shall **neither be transferred nor refunded**, as per NABH policy.

For clarity and uniformity in processing, a **consolidated summary of eligibility criteria, categories of healthcare organisations, and key clarifications received from the CGHS office in reference to the CGHS Office Memorandum dated 22.12.2025** is enclosed as **Annexure-I** to this notification. The Annexure shall form an integral part of this notification and shall be referred to while scrutinising and processing all applications.

All applicant HCOs are advised to **carefully read the CGHS Office Memorandum dated 22.12.2025 along with Annexure-1** before submitting or pursuing their applications under the NABH-QCI CGHS empanelment programme.

Thanking you,
Sincerely yours,

(Dr. Atul Mohan Kochhar)
CEO-NABH

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Annexure-1

1. **Validity of NABH-QCI recommendation for CGHS empanelment**

- NABH-**QCI recommendation for** CGHS empanelment shall be valid for a period of three (03) years.
- Renewal shall be subject to continued compliance with applicable CGHS checklist requirements and the eligibility conditions and criteria mentioned in CGHS OM.
- HCOs are required to **apply for renewal at least six (06) months prior to the expiry** of the validity period.

2. **Recommendation criteria for Non NABH accredited Hospitals**

Under the **NABH-QCI empanelment of Non NABH accredited Hospital,** there shall be **no empanelment for selected services**. Following review by the competent committee, the Healthcare Organisation (HCO) shall be **recommended for CGHS empanelment only if all applicable scopes are found to be compliant and recommended as per the prescribed criteria**.

3. **Categories of healthcare organizations for CGHS empanelment**

a. **Multi-Specialty Hospitals:** Multi-specialty hospitals are healthcare facilities equipped with the necessary infrastructure, medical staff, and personnel to provide comprehensive primary, secondary, and tertiary care, including emergency services. These hospitals must be registered with the appropriate authorities.

b. **Standalone Single-Specialty Hospitals:** Single-specialty hospitals are healthcare facilities designed to provide primary, secondary, and tertiary care, including emergency services, but are limited to a specific specialty such as Orthopaedics, Cardiology, Nephrology, Psychiatry, Oncology (Cancer), etc. These hospitals must also be registered with the appropriate authorities. In case of emergencies, they should be capable of providing necessary emergency care or treatment in other specialties as per CGHS rates and guidelines. Cancer hospitals having all treatment facilities for cancer - surgery, Chemotherapy and radio-therapy (approved by BARC / AERB) shall only apply for empanelment.

c. **Super-Specialty Hospitals:** To qualify as a super-specialty hospital for CGHS empanelment, the following criteria must be met:

i. The hospital must have a minimum of **200 beds (in Tier 1 cities) for other cities 100 beds)**.
ii. It must be NABH accredited.
iii. NABL Accreditation mandatory for in house laboratories.
iv. Should mandatorily have CGHS empanelled treatment facilities for all the following Super Specialties

1. Nephrology and Urology (including Renal Transplantation).
2. Neurosurgery
3. Cardiothoracic Surgery
4. Medical Oncology
5. Surgical Oncology
6. Radiation Oncology

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7. Transplant facilities
8. Endocrinology
9. Specialized Orthopaedic Treatment facilities that include Joint Replacement Surgery
10. Gastroenterology and GI-Surgery/Transplantation.

All the above-mentioned specialities services should be in-house only. In case of outsourced or any tie-up the facility will not be considered for the eligibility of super speciality category. All the services other than the above like General medicine, Gynaecology, Ophthalmology, ENT, etc available in the Super speciality Hospital have to be invariably extended to CGHS without any exception.

All three hospital categories should be mandatorily equipped with emergency services and shall have operation theatres commensurate with services being provided.

4. Eligibility criteria for CGHS Empanelment of NABH Accredited and Non NABH Accredited Hospitals

a. Multi-Speciality and Standalone Single-Speciality Hospitals

- Hospitals accredited by NABH shall be considered under the NABH category for CGHS empanelment.
- Hospitals located in **Tier 1 cities** that are not accredited by NABH may apply under the Non-NABH category; however, **Entry-Level NABH Certification or NABH-QCI recommendation is mandatory for CGHS empanelment.**
- In **Tier 2, Tier 3 cities, North Eastern states and union territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladhak,** Non-NABH Accredited healthcare organizations (HCOs) without QCI recommendation or NABH Entry level Certification may be provisionally empanelled under CGHS. Such HCOs shall be required to obtain **QCI recommendation, Entry-Level NABH Certification, or NABH Full Accreditation** within 6 months from the date of empanelment.

b. Super-Speciality Hospitals

- Healthcare organizations seeking CGHS empanelment under **"Super-Speciality Hospitals"** shall be **mandatorily be NABH accredited,** irrespective of the city or location.
- **Only NABH-accredited hospitals shall be eligible for consideration under this category.**

5. Eligibility criteria for CGHS Empanelment of exclusive Eye Hospitals/ Centres

- Exclusive Eye Hospitals / Centres shall be **mandatorily accredited under the NABH Eye Care Organization (ECO) Accreditation Programme** in all cities.
- However, in **Tier-III cities**, **North-Eastern States**, and **Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh**, **non-NABH-accredited Eye Hospitals / Centres** having **Entry-Level NABH Certification or QCI recommendation** may be **provisionally empanelled,** subject to the condition that **full NABH accreditation shall be obtained within six (06) months**, failing which they shall be **removed from CGHS empanelment.**

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6. **Eligibility criteria for CGHS Empanelment of exclusive Dental Clincs**

- **NABH-accredited Dental Centres** shall be empanelled under the **NABH category**.
- Non-NABH Dental Centres may be considered under the **Non-NABH category**, subject to compliance with **NABH Entry-Level Dental Certification or QCI recommendation** requirements.
- Dental Centres performing maxilla facial surgeries should have minimum 10 beds.

7. **Eligibility criteria for CGHS Empanelment of Diagnostic Laboratories and Imaging Centres**

- The standalone Diagnostic Laboratories & Imaging Centres shall be compulsory be **fully accredited by NABL** in all cities.
- However, for Tier III, North east states, and Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh even NON NABL laboratories but having entry level NABL certification or **QCI recommendation** shall be empanelled subject to the condition that full NABL accreditation shall be obtained within one year failing which they shall be removed from empanelment.
- If scope of NABL accreditation does not include imaging services, then a separate NABH accreditation certificate for imaging services is required.
- If NABH accreditation is unavailable, non-NABH rates shall apply for imaging services unless the scope of NABL includes imaging services.

8. **Eligibility criteria for CGHS Empanelment of standalone Dialysis Centres**

- Standalone Dialysis Centres accredited by NABH under **SHCO Accreditation Program** or **Allopathic Clinics Accreditation program** shall be empanelled under the **NABH category**.
- Dialysis Centres having NABH **Entry-Level NABH certification or QCI recommendation** shall be empanelled under the **Non-NABH category**.
- For **Tier-II, III cities**, **North-Eastern States**, and **Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir, the centres not having NABH accreditation, certification or QCI recommendation may be provisionally empanelled subject to the condition that they shall obtain** to obtain **NABH accreditation, certification or QCI recommendation within six (06) months**, failing which they shall be removed from the CGHS empanelled list.

9. **Eligibility criteria for CGHS Empanelment of standalone Chemotherapy Centres**

- Standalone Chemotherapy Centres are required to obtain **QCI recommendation** to get empanelled under CGHS.
- For **Tier-II, III cities**, **North-Eastern States**, and **Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir the standalone Chemotherapy Centres not having QCI recommendation may be provisionally empanelled subject to the condition that they shall obtain QCI recommendation within six (06) months**, failing which they shall be removed from the CGHS empanelled list.

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Eligibility Criteria for CGHS Empanelment

Category	Tier-1 Cities (Minimum Bed/ Dental Chair/ Dialysis Machine criteria)	Tier 2, Tier 3 cities, North Eastern states and union territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladhak (Minimum Bed/ Dental Chair/ Dialysis Machine criteria)	Remarks
Multi-speciality Hospitals	50	30	In Tier II, Tier III and North Eastern States, UT of J&K, HCOs without any accreditation or QCI recommendation shall be provisionally empanelled subject to the condition that they must obtain **QCI recommendation, Entry-level NABH Certification, or full NABH accreditation** within 6 months from the date of empanelment.
Standalone Single-speciality Hospitals	50	30	Single-specialty hospitals such as Orthopaedics, Cardiology, Nephrology, Psychiatry, Oncology (Cancer), etc. **Cancer hospitals having all treatment facilities for cancer - surgery, Chemotherapy and radio-therapy (approved by BARC /AERB) shall only apply for empanelment.**
Super-Speciality Hospitals	200	100	**Full NABH accreditation compulsory.** NABL Accreditation mandatory for in house laboratories.
Eye Care Centres / Eye Hospitals	6	4	Exclusive Eye Hospitals / Centres shall be **mandatorily accredited under the NABH Eye Care Organization (ECO) Accreditation Programme** in all cities. However, in **Tier-III cities**, **North-Eastern States**, and **Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh**, **non-NABH-accredited Eye Hospitals / Centres** having **Entry-Level NABH Certification or QCI recommendation** may be **provisionally empanelled,** subject to the condition that **full NABH accreditation shall be obtained within six (06) months**, failing which they shall be **removed from CGHS empanelment.**

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Dental Centres	➢ 4 Dental chairs ➢ Dental centres performing maxilla facial surgeries should have minimum of 10 beds.	➢ 2 Dental chairs ➢ Dental centres performing maxillo facial surgeries should have minimum of 10 beds.	**NABH-accredited Dental Centres** shall be empanelled under the **NABH category**. Non-NABH Dental Centres may be considered under the **Non-NABH category**, subject to compliance with **NABH Entry-Level Dental Certification or QCI recommendation** requirements.
Diagnostic Laboratories & Imaging Centres	➢ The minimum patient volume requirement is 100 per day for Tier I City.	➢ The minimum patient volume requirement is 50 per day for Tier II, Tier III, and North Eastern States.	The standalone Diagnostic Laboratories & Imaging Centres shall be compulsory be **fully accredited by NABL** in all cities. However, for Tier III, North east states, and Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh even NON NABL laboratories but having entry level NABL certification or **QCI recommendation** shall be empanelled subject to the condition that full NABL accreditation shall be obtained within one year failing which they shall be removed from empanelment. **If a laboratory also provides imaging services (e.g., CT, MRI, USG, etc), it must submit a NABH accreditation certificate for imaging services.** If NABH accreditation is unavailable, non-NABH rates shall apply for imaging services unless the scope of NABL includes imaging services.
Dialysis Centres	10 dialysis machines with beds	6 dialysis machines with beds	The standalone dialysis centres having full NABH shall be empanelled under NABH category while those having entry level accreditation certificate or QCI recommendation certificate shall be empanelled under Non NABH category. However, for tier 2, tier 3, North eastern and Jammu and Kashmir, the centres not having any accreditation or QCI recommendation may be provisionally subject to the condition that they will obtain full accreditation or QCI certification within 6 months failing which the centre shall be removed from the list of empanelment.
Chemotherapy Centres	10	6	The Chemo centre should have QCI recommendation certificate to get empanelled under CGHS. However, for tier 2, tier 3, North eastern and Jammu and Kashmir, the Stand-alone Chemotherapy Centres not having QCI recommendation may be permitted to be empanelled subject to the condition that they shall obtain QCI recommendation within 6 months failing which they shall be removed from empanelment.

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