

Infra funds, new chain to bolster supply of oxygen

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Lucknow: In an effort to ensure hassle-free oxygen supply for Covid and non-Covid patients, the district administration on Sunday decided to pump in funds to set up infrastructure for production of life-saving gas and to create a separate oxygen supply chain for non-Covid hospitals.

“Work order worth Rs 9.64 crore has been placed for oxygen concentrator and oxygen generator plants to boost supply in the district. Arrangements are also being made to set up oxygen plants for private Covid-19 hospitals on their expense,” district magistrate Abhishek Prakash said.

The work order list included 200 oxygen concentrators of 10 litre per minute capacity at all CHCs and Covid hospitals, 21 oxygen generators, including 20 with 45 litres per minute and one with 50 litres per minute capacity, for Covid hospital. Eight oxygen generator plants, including five with nine cubic metres per hour and three with 30 cubic metres per hour capacity, will also come up for district Covid hospitals.

In another decision taken by officer-in-charge of Covid-19 in Lucknow, Roshan Jacob, eight private registered oxygen traders have been selected for supply of oxygen to about 88 non-Covid hospitals in the city.

The non-Covid hospitals primarily include those which have functional ICU facilities for special newborn care units, maternity ward, cardiac and renal, among others.

“We have identified wholesale suppliers of oxygen and quota has been fixed following discussion with 88 non-Covid hospitals with functional ICU bed facilities. At least one each wholesale supplier will manage oxygen demand of at least a dozen non-Covid hospitals. The supplier will maintain record of oxygen supply to check black marketing. A fixed rate has also been decided to keep tabs on overpricing. The mechanism is expected to benefit SNCU, maternity clinic and heart care hospitals the most,” said Jacob.

She said the current mechanism of oxygen refilling for home-isolated patients would remain unchanged.