Guide book for Genetic Counseling Centres/Genetic Clinics/Genetic Laboratories under PCPNDT Act 2015

Introduction

The guide book for Genetic Counselling Centers, Genetic Clinics and Genetic Laboratories under the PCPNDT Act has been brought out jointly by the Public Health Department, National Health Mission, Government of Maharashtra and UNFPA. The booklet provides the medical community with basic information on what is expected from them under the Act and also attempts to answer frequently asked questions related to Act compliance.

The document includes reference to Government orders and Amendments upto 30th June 2015.

Contents of the booklet

The booklet details out the entire procedure right from registration to reporting formats that have to be followed by clinics.

1) Registration of centers
   The act clearly states that no person shall open a Genetic clinic, laboratory or counselling centerhaving ultrasound or imaging machine that is capable of determining the sex of the foetus without due registration under the Act. This section details out the process and documents required for registration.

2) Organizing a center for PCPNDT compliance
   The Act has specifically laid out strict Dos and Donts for every registered Centre viz. prominent display of the registration certificate, a signboard that reads 'Disclosure of the sex of the foetus is prohibited under law', a copy of the Act being readily available at the Centre and so on. This section details out each of these. It also throws light on the rules pertaining to portable machines that may be used and the qualifications of those conducting sonography.

3) Maintenance of records
   The Act provides that the sonography centers maintain records of every patient who has visited them. This section highlights the nature of records to be maintained and the duration thereof.

4) Inspection of centers
   Appropriate authorities have the right to search the premises of any center where the Act may have been breached. This section elaborates on rules related to inspection.

5) A detailed list of FAQs
   This is an exhaustive set of frequently asked questions by the authorities as well as medical practitioners.

6) Reporting formats
   The booklet provides details of various formats under the Act.

The booklet also includes a sample of the monthly reporting format that the centers are expected to maintain and submit to the requisite authorities.

This guide book is an attempt to involve owners of the centers, clinics and laboratories to do their bit for implementation of the law.