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(Registered under the Societies Act XXI of 1860)  
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## PRESS RELEASE

### IMA DEMANDS MODERN MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS FOR JUDICIOUS USE OF INJECTION REMEDSIVIR AND PUBLIC NOT TO PANIC

The Second wave of Pandemic has created an unprecedented demand for Remdesivir injection resulting in demand and supply mismatch and an artificial panic is created. This is resulting because of the non-judicious use of this drug in many places beyond the scope of its evidenced based benefits. The public as well the medical community must be aware of the absolute indication of the drug and needs to use it judiciously so that the drug is used for those patients who will be benefitted.

IMA retreats as per Clinical Management Protocol Covid – 19 released by Government of India, MHFW, DGHS (EMR division) version 5-03 07 20, Remdesivir (under Emergency Use Authorization) has no role for the mild cases and may be considered in patients with moderate disease (those on oxygen) with none of the following contraindications:

1. AST/ALT > 5 times Upper limit of normal (ULN)
2. Severe renal impairment (i.e., eGFR < 30ml/min/m<sup>2</sup> or need for hemodialysis)
3. Pregnancy or lactating females
4. Children (< 12 years of age)

Early diagnosis on the pretext of contact or presumptive symptoms and immediate consultation with the Doctor or Hospital is the need for early recovery in Covid- 19, is the lesson that we have learnt in the past one year. The drug Remdesivir given in the first week, when there is an exponential raise of Viral markers, with moderate to severe symptoms does yield a total benefit for the patients for the recovery path.

As there has been a cap on the cost of the drug by the Government which is now available at a much less cost compared to 2020. The affordability of the drug make the public to demand it use for their kith and kin, ever when there is not an absolute indication to use. This unjustified request must be resisted by the medial Professionals, as the availability of the drug will be of more benefit to a patient who has absolute indication.

In times of crisis and in demand empirical use by the medical professional and demand to give the drug on cost benefit ratio is not an accepted theory. The triaging of the patients who will be benefitted absolutely by the administration of Remdesivir alone must be provided the drug. It is the social responsibility of the citizens and medical ethics of the professional to maintain the availability of this drug for the citizens of the country.

IMA invokes public to adhere to Appropriate use of masks as it is equal to receive a vaccine. IMA also request people to venture out only when it is absolute necessary and adopt physical distance and hand washing at all situations.

IMA compliment the Government of India Health ministry for expediting the approval of Russian Sputnik V vaccine to enhancing mass vaccination and also ensuring the availability of the multiple drugs including Injection Remdesivir in the country by stopping export and capping the price.

IMA is conducting periodic appraisal and hand holding for our health care professionals to the evidenced based treatment protocol to be executed on affordable and accessible way and assure the public not to get panic and make use of the infrastructure at the earliest symptoms of disease and help us in the containment, surveillance, testing, tracing, vaccination and treatment.

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**Purity of Profession – Parity in Healthcare**

All communications intended for headquarters office should be addressed to the Honorary Secretary General