

Association of Prasar Bharati Engineering Employees

(APBEE)



Regn. No. S/2612/Disst.South/2018
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APBEE/2024/31

Ref. No.

Date 13/11/2024

To,

The CEO, Prasar Bharati
[Kind Attn. Shri Amit Sharma, DDG(PBRB)]
Prasar Bharati Secretariat
New Delhi – 110001.

Subject: Request for Extension of Time Limit for Submission of OPD Medical Reimbursement Bills from Three to Six Months.

Reference:

1. Prasar Bharati office order. No.-A-10011/5/2015-PPC/PBRB Dated 20/08/2024.
2. Ministry of Health and family Welfare Office Memorandum No. S.14025/19/2015-MS Dated 27/05/2015.

Respected Sir,

With due regards, we kindly request your attention to the issue of reconsidering the time limit for submitting OPD (Out-Patient Department) medical reimbursement claims. In this regard Prasar Bharati issue order mentioned at reference 1, as per this order the permissible limit of medical reimbursement has been revised from 30,000 to 37500 (For employees with basic pay of up to ₹75,000.) However, along with this enhancement, the time limit for submitting OPD treatment bills has also been revised from six months to three months following the expenditure.

On behalf of the Association of Prasar Bharati Engineers Employees (APBEE), we would like to express our sincere appreciation for the decision to increase the OPD reimbursement limit. This positive change is highly valued by our members.

However, we are disappointed by the reduction in the submission time limit from six months to three months. This revision presents a significant challenge for many employees who may require additional time to gather and submit their medical bills, especially in cases where treatment spans a longer duration or where delays arise due to administrative or logistical reasons.

It is relevant to mention here that the existing medical policy—Prasar Bharati Health Scheme (PBHS) is based on the guidelines provided by the Department of Health and Family Welfare's CS(MA) Rules and CGHS Rules. According to the Office Memorandum referenced in [Reference 2], the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare revised the time limit for the submission of final claims for medical expenses, extending the period from three months to six months.

[Handwritten Signature]
13-11-24

Several factors further highlight the need for this revision:

1. Many employees exhaust their annual OPD reimbursement cap (up to ₹37,500 for those with a basic pay below ₹75,000) midway through the financial year. For example, if an employee reaches this cap by October, they face difficulties due to the three-month submission limit. Bills incurred after October cannot be claimed in the next financial year, as they fall outside the allowable submission period.
2. Employees working in remote field stations or FM transmission centers, often located 300–400 kilometers away from their cluster offices, face significant logistical challenges in submitting their reimbursement documents within the current three-month time frame.

In light of these challenges, we respectfully request that the time limit for submitting OPD medical reimbursement claims be extended from three months to six months. This extension would:

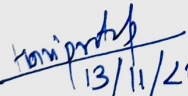
- Align Prasar Bharati's medical policies with the guidelines provided by the Department of Health and Family Welfare for CGHS employees.
- Provide sufficient time for employees in remote or border locations to compile and submit their documents without undue stress.
- Enable employees who have exhausted their OPD limits mid-year to claim legitimate medical expenses incurred toward the end of the financial year.


It is important to note that extending the submission period does not increase the reimbursement cap but simply provides a more reasonable timeframe for submitting claims, without affecting the organization's financial outlay. Such a change would reduce stress and financial strain on employees, contributing to improved morale and productivity.

We kindly request that you issue suitable instructions to the concerned section to revise time limit Time Limit for Submission of OPD Medical Reimbursement Bills from Three to Six Months

Thank you for your kind attention to this matter.

Yours sincerely,


13/11/2024
(Hari Pratap Gautam)
General Secretary
Ph: 9990284952


13-11-24
(Atul Yadav)
President
Ph: 7085490530

Enclosed as above.