

## A BRIEF INTRODUCTION OF NATIONAL AYUSH MORBIDITY AND STANDARDIZED TERMINOLOGIES ELECTRONIC PORTAL (NAMASTE PORTAL)

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### ABSTRACT

Ministry of AYUSH has initiated efforts for centralized collection of morbidity statistics pertaining to various systems of medicine under the Ministry viz. Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy. In this regard, the Ministry in association with *Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani (A-S-U)* research councils has developed Morbidity Codes and Standard Terminologies of Ayurveda, Unani and Siddha systems of medicine. For Homeopathy and Yoga & Naturopathy systems the International Classification of Diseases (ICD- 10/11 Codes) of World Health Organization has been adopted for this purpose. In this regard, the Ministry of AYUSH has developed a portal named National AYUSH Morbidity and Standardized Terminologies Electronic Portal (NAMASTE Portal). The portal provides Standardized Terminologies & Morbidity Codes for *Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani* systems of medicine along with W.H.O ICD-10/11 codes

meant for dual coding and morbidity reporting for Yoga, Naturopathy and Homoeopathy Systems. These are meant for unambiguous reporting, electronic data submission through individual institutions and gradually moving towards adopting Electronic Health Records (E.H.R.).

**KEYWORDS:** Morbidity codes, Electronic health records, Morbidity statistics collection, National AYUSH Morbidity and Standardized Terminology Electronic Portal.

## INTRODUCTION

The National AYUSH Morbidity and Standardized Terminologies Electronic Portal (NAMASTE Portal) is a web-based portal exclusively dedicated to the centralized collection of morbidity statistics of various health care provider institutions under all AYUSH systems spread over the country.

In order to enhance the global footing of Ayurveda, Siddha, and Unani systems of medicine, the Ministry of AYUSH has been actively pursuing efforts to include AYUSH systems of medicine in the Traditional Medicine chapter of the International Classification of Diseases (ICD). In this regard, CCRUM has been involved in the development of Standardized Terminologies and Morbidity codes for various disease conditions mentioned in Unani System of Medicine for uniform usage of terminologies and also to create a system for centralized morbidity data collection. Similarly, the Ayurveda and Siddha Councils of Research are also involved in the development of Standardized Terminologies and Morbidity codes for their respective systems. The core objective of this portal is to accurately project the contribution of various AYUSH systems in the health care sector of the country through centralized data pooling into a common portal. Apart from data collection, the portal has the potential to bring to light the various areas of health care that each system is contributing to and also in knowing the efficacy of various AYUSH systems in various morbidity conditions. As a major step in this regard, a dedicated web portal named NAMASTE Portal was launched by the Hon. Prime Minister of India on the occasion of 2nd Ayurveda Day (October 17, 2017).<sup>[1,2]</sup> This portal, which was prepared and is being maintained by the CCRAS, is dedicated to the collection of morbidity statistics of all the AYUSH systems of medicines from all over the country in a centralized manner.

### Vision

To develop a comprehensive web-portal on AYUSH Morbidity Codes, Inter-Linkages with WHO-ICD 10/11 and Standardized Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani Terminologies.

### Mission

1. Development of Ontology Framework for National Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani Morbidity Codes.
2. Field level trials of National ASU Morbidity Coding Systems for reporting morbidity & treatment out-come along with ICD-10/11 (DUEL CODING System) and capacity building.

3. Pan India implementation of ASU National Morbidity Codes for reporting morbidity and treatment outcome along with ICD-10/11 (DUEL CODING System)
4. Pan India Implementation of ICD-10/11 Disease Codes for Yoga, Naturopathy and Homoeopathy Systems of Medicine for reporting morbidity and treatment outcome.
5. Informing World Health Organization (WHO) Hqrs, Geneva through WHO- Regional Office about implementation of National Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani Morbidity Codes at country level to create platform for international Consultation for the development and addition of Chapter(s) on Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani Systems of medicine in ICD-11 revision.
6. The repository of Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani Standardized Terminologies.

### **Current need of the NAMASTE Portal**

Even though AYUSH systems play a major role in the health care system of the country, the efforts have not been reported well yet due to the absence of centralized data collection method regarding the number of patients being treated by the various institutions of AYUSH systems located all over the country as well as the common morbidity conditions which are being managed by the various AYUSH systems. The major roadblocks/challenges in this regard were the absence of uniform data collection mechanism and absence of standardized terminologies for uniformity in diagnostic terms throughout the country. The former can be solved by constituting a dedicated web portal for centralized reporting of morbidity statistics and the latter can be solved by the development of standardized terminologies of respective AYUSH systems of medicine. In this regard, each terminology is assigned a specific code. The part of the terminologies that includes the names of the various morbidity conditions known as the Morbidity codes has been developed in line with the system of ICD of the World Health Organization (WHO). These Morbidity codes have been developed and published in the name of National Unani Morbidity Codes in case of Unani.<sup>[3]</sup> In a similar way, the other AYUSH systems like Ayurveda and Siddha have also pre-pared and published their respective morbidity codes. Since Homeopathy, Yoga, and Naturopathy systems use the same terminologies for diagnosis as biomedicine, they follow the morbidity codes of the ICD as such. All these morbidity codes have been uploaded on the NAMASTE Portal accessible at [www.namaste.ayush.gov.in](http://www.namaste.ayush.gov.in) for public utility.

### **Highlights of Web-based NAMASTE Portal**

- Dual coding system for reporting in the case of A-S-U systems.

- Homeopathy and Yoga and Naturopathy systems of medicine may report by single coding system by ICD-10/11 of the WHO.
- Registered institutions have been given their own user ids and passwords for secure access.
- Standardized terminologies of respective systems can be accessed through the portal.
- Coding of ICD-10 of the WHO can be referred through this portal.

### **Benefits of Development of NAMASTE Portal**

- Real-time morbidity data collection.
- Identification of areas of strengths of the various systems under AYUSH
- Electronic health records systems integrated with morbidity codes.
- The volume of services provided by AYUSH systems can help in future policy decision making.
- The diagnostic guidelines provided along with the disease would serve as a helping tool in diagnosis and also enable cross-verification of diagnosis with the case records.
- Helpful in regulating the healthcare delivery system in AYUSH systems by providing standardized diagnostic terminologies, thus overcoming the barrier of the diagnosis being written in Sanskrit-Arabic-Tamil languages in case of A-S-U systems.
- The diagnostic codes can serve as a tool for documentation in various other programs, such as outreach activities.

### **CONCLUSION**

This is the first time ever initiative taken by the Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India, as a stepping stone for sustainable maintenance of AYUSH health statistics across the country by adopting uniform terminologies. Furthermore, unique code-based AYUSH terminologies would certainly bring a uniform pattern of indicating disease terminologies for academic, research, as well as clinical practice. The ultimate transformation would be uniform presentation of evidences in the country and the world at large. The development and maintenance of this portal would be an important milestone for reporting the contribution of AYUSH systems of medicine in the health care system of the country. The stakeholders may register themselves in the portal to enable them to utilize this facility.

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