

Implementation of Clinical Establishments (Registration & Regulation) Act, 2010 in Assam

The Clinical Establishments (Registration & Regulation) Act, 2010 has been adopted by the State of Assam after repealing the Assam Health Establishment Act. The Assam Clinical Establishments (Registration & Regulation) Rules, 2016 have been notified on 14th October, 2016. The implementation of the Act is in the interest of the State and public at large as it will improve the overall quality of healthcare by enforcing minimum standards to be adhered to by the healthcare providers.

The Act is applicable to all clinical establishments, public or private (except the establishments run by the armed forces), that offer services for diagnosis, care or treatment of patients in any recognized system of medicine. e.g. hospital, nursing home, diagnostic or investigative laboratories etc.

Other salient features of the Clinical Establishments (Registration & Regulation) Act, 2010 are as under:

- The legislation makes it obligatory for clinical establishments to provide treatment and stabilize anyone who comes or is brought in an 'emergency medical condition'
- The legislation also sets up a National Council which classifies, determine and develop minimum standards for clinical establishments.
- Act provides for two types of registration i.e. Provisional Registration and Permanent Registration.

Under the Assam Clinical Establishments (Registration & Regulation) Rules, 2016, the following are amongst the obligations of the clinical establishments:

- The Clinical Establishments shall display the rates charged for each type of service provided by them, for the benefit of the patients at the reception counters both in the relevant vernacular (Assamese/Bengali/Bodo) and English.
- The details of services and rates shall be explained to the patients of their attendants at the time of admission without any ambiguity.
- The Clinical Establishments shall indicate the name, qualification and registration number allotted to doctors by the State Medical Council/Medical Council of India in all the prescriptions and certificates given to the patients.
- Every doctor shall display the registration number allotted to him/her by the State Medical Council/Medical Council of India in clinic and in all prescriptions, certificates, and money receipts etc., given to the patients.

The Assam State Council for Clinical Establishments and the District Registering Authority for each district have been constituted for implementation of the Act.

Accordingly, the Clinical Establishments (Registration & Regulation) Act, 2010 is being implemented in the State of Assam.