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DEPARTMENT / SUBJECT: Covid-19

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# K'taka: Pvt hosps can directly treat 50% virus patients

## GOVT FIXES TREATMENT TARIFF

Patients treated directly by private hospitals to be charged at govt-fixed tariffs and those referred by authorities to be charged at public hospital rates			BED STRENGTH	
Category	Govt Quota*	Pvt Quota**	INSTITUTION	BEDS
General ward	₹5,200	₹10,000	Govt hospitals	1,330
Unit for high dependency	₹7000	₹12,000	Govt medical colleges	819
ICU without ventilator	₹8,500	₹15,000	Private hospitals	2,500
ICU + ventilator	₹10,000	₹25,000	Private medical colleges	1,333
			Covid care centres	608

(Tariff in Rs/day; \*referred by govt hospitals; \*\*walk-in)

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**Bengaluru:** The Karnataka government on Monday allowed major private hospitals with over 100 beds to directly treat Covid-19 patients at government-fixed rates for private institutions, besides agreeing to extend insurance cover to medical staff and provide police security in case of attacks on health workers.

After an hour-long meeting with government officers

representatives of private hospitals, revenue minister R Ashoka said the agreement will ramp up the state's bed infrastructure by 2,000 — the first batch of 750 beds will be handed over to the government on Tuesday and the rest in the next 10 days.

A second and final round of talks will be held on Tuesday and chief minister BS Yediyurappa will make a final

announcement soon after.

At the meeting, private hospitals demanded that 50% beds be reserved for directly treating Covid-19 patients at government-fixed tariffs and the remaining 50% for patients sent in by government authorities to be charged at the government hospital tariff. For instance, a hospital with 50 beds will have 25 set aside for patients to be treated at its rate chart and the rest at government tariff.

Dr R Ravindra, president, Private Hospitals and Nur-

sing Homes Association

(Phana), said they responded to the go-

vernment's appeal though the tariff agreed upon for private institutions is 20% less than their demand and added that they blinked since the government readily accepted other two conditions — insurance and police protection for staff treating Covid-19 patients.

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## 5-member panel formed

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"We demanded a Rs 50-lakh cover for doctors and nursing staff in case of death and police protection if family members of a dead patient protested. The government has agreed," the doctor said. Ashoka said a five-member committee — CM's political secretary SR Vishwanath as chief, health commissioner Pankaj Kumar Pandey and senior officer Tushar Girinath, Dr Ravindra and Phana vice-president Dr Nagaraj as members — will be formed to ensure better coordination to fight the pandemic.