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Medical negligence victim's dad cries foul

SHOCKING Youth had taken many tests, was wrongly treated for various diseases

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KOLKATA: Harassment has turned many common men into activists. Anindya Kishor Das is the latest example.

Lack of uniformity in medical tests conducted at various government and private laboratories had subjected his son to treatment for several diseases that he did not at all contract.

After struggling for nearly three months to find out what ailed his son, Anindya has set his goal at bringing medical, clinical and pathological diagnosis under a system of supervision and has mailed the Prime Minister and chief ministers of different states a copy of a proposed bill that he has drafted.

"I've prepared a 12-page draft of a bill named 'Medical, Clinical and Pathological Laboratories Bill' and mailed it to the Prime Minister, the chief-minister of West Bengal and ministers from 22 other states in India, demanding quality assurance of medical diagnosis. Most of these pathological laboratories are not recognised by the National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL)," he told HT.

According to Das, only one laboratory per 19 lakh population in the country is accredited to NABL, whereas the state figure is one NABL-accredited lab per 14 lakh population. There are only 70 laboratories in the state accredited to NABL.

"Presently, there is no way

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ANINDYA KISHOR DAS, father of the victim

to hold the unaccredited labs responsible for disastrous diagnosis. I have already received responses from the authorities of four states, including Delhi, Kerala, Goa and Assam and hope other states would respond, too," he told HT. His son, nine-year-old Avigyan, a resident of Chinsurah in Hooghly district, had developed habitual cough, following which specialists at a leading multi-specialty hospital in Kolkata suspected it as a case of pulmonary tuberculosis. His parents went to another senior doctor for a second opinion and he too diagnosed the same and prescribed him with anti-tuberculosis drugs.

As the boy gradually developed signs of headache and his coughing syndrome intensified, he was admitted to two of the best hospitals in the city. Both the institutions

prescribed continuation with anti-tuberculosis drugs. One of the hospitals further diagnosed him with tuberculous meningitis. However, after about 10 more days, the hospital authorities said he had nothing but migraine. As the confused parents took the boy to a state-run medical college and hospital, the doctor told them to stop anti-tuberculosis drugs and administered drugs for allergic cough instead.

As Das finally decided to take his son to Vellore for further tests, the doctors said the boy suffered neither from TB nor allergic cough. "In fact, the doctors at Vellore conducted psychological counseling because the three-month-long episode over wrong treatment had taken a toll on his mind," Das said.

This was, however, not the end of their predicament, as social isolation at school and by friends followed. The State Commission for Child Life Protection has conducted a probe into the allegation of isolation in the school and the report is awaiting government action, sources at the women and child development department of the state government said. Das hopes fewer people would have to undergo the trouble that his family had to should the government at the Centre and different states introduce the proposed "Medical, Clinical and Pathological Laboratories (Quality Control and Regulations) Bill".

The victim is alive and is now doing well.

Green corridor for an organ transplant, courtesy cops

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KOLKATA: Despite having a busy schedule on December 25, Kolkata Police arranged a green corridor for an organ transplant from a brain dead patient at a private hospital to one at SSKM.

Suravi Barat (22), a resident of Asansol, was suffering from brain tumor and was admitted to a private hospital on Eastern Bypass on December 14. She was declared brain dead and her family members decided to donate her organs. According to hospital sources, her five organs have been donated and for a kidney transplant, the police made a green corridor from bypass to SSKM, which is around 11 km. The journey took around 10 minutes.

Paritosh Naskar, a resident of Baraipur, who had been suffering from kidney problems and undergoing treatment at SSKM, got the kidney of Barat.

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