

## **PRESS RELEASE**

The government hospitals of Lahore are facing a severe shortage of ventilators which are at times life saving for patients and this is a matter of great concern for the Punjab government says PMA Office bearers Dr. M. Sarwar Ch. Dr Tanveer Anwar, Dr Shahid Malik, Dr M.Riaz and YDA Office bearers Dr Rana Sohail, Dr Aslam Rao, Dr Talha Sherwani And Dr Salman Kazmi. According to survey done by PMA and YDA there are 155 ventilators in the government hospitals of the provincial capital of Punjab out of which 20 are out of order and these hospitals are draining patients from Gujrat, Gujranwala, Sheikhpura,okara,kasur etc whose population is exceeding 8 Coroer. According to the survey Jinnah Hospital Has 24, Mayo Hospital Has 23, Lahore General Hospital Has 30,Punjab Institute Of Cardiology Has 19 , Services Hospital Has 22, Children Hospital Has 17 ,Ganga Ram Hospital Has 12 And Kot Khawaja Saeed Hospital Has 8 Ventilators.

Jinnah hospital is the only hospital to have 4 ventilators in emergency ward while Punjab institute of cardiology has 1 ventilator in emergency ward,in mayo 5 new ventilators for emergency ward are in plan while rest of the hospitals lack ventilators in emergency wards. Jinnah hospital has 20 ventilators in the indoor . Mayo hospital has 11 ventilators in central icu,6 ventilators in cardiac surgery icu,2 ventiltors in paediatrics ICU,1 in WMW and EMW and 2 in orthopaedics ward. For reasons unknown to PMA & YDA The ventilators lying in orthopedics are lying there for 2 year unused in the professor office and have never been used for patients and our sources say that the professor is reluctant to hand them over to the hospital administration. In Punjab institute of cardiology one ventilator is there in emergency ward, one in Coronary Care Unit iii for VIP patients and 17 in Cardiac Surgery ICU. It is worth mentioning that all patients after cardiac surgery require a ventilatory support for some hours. Ganga ram hospital has 2 ventilators in paed intensive care unit while 10 in the surgical ICU. Services hospital has 10 ventilators each in surgical and medical ICU's and 2 ventilators in paed ward. Lahore general hospital has 30 ventilators out of which only 4 are available for surgical and medical ward patients and rest are reserved for neurosurgery ward patients. Children hospital has 17 ventilators out of which 2 or 3 are in maintenance department. Kot Khawja Saeed Hospital is lucky to have a not only 8 new ventilators but also to have a new 16 slice ct scan machine installed in its premises in the last one year, However Lady Wiilingdon Hospital And Lady Aithcison Hospital don't

have a single ventilator in them and patients from these hospitals are shifted to Mayo hospital in case, the need arises. It is sad to state that sometimes serious patients are referred from one teaching hospital to the other in search of ventilators. While hundreds of millions are being spent on various projects all over the metropolitan area a ventilator only costs 0.8 million. According to recommendations the ICU beds should be 10 % of the total beds of a hospital and on at least 2 ICU beds there should be one ventilator. Mayo hospital is 2200 bedded, Jinnah hospital is 1250 bedded, Services hospital is 1200 bedded, Children hospital is 560 bedded, Ganga Ram is 680 bedded, now authorities and public can well imagine how many ventilators are required. It is worth mentioning that usually there are 2,3 patients on each bed of these hospitals.

PMA & YDA office bearers have also added that there are no intensive care/critical care specialists in the ICU's of govt hospitals except one in Shaukat Khanum who is an American trained Pakistani doctor. In other hospitals only anaesthetists are available to run the ICU's. As no specialists are available, no training for young doctors is available in the ICU's and Punjab government needs to hire trained ICU specialists at special pay packages and ensure that doctors and nurses are trained properly to handle the ventilators and to ensure quality patient care.

Pakistan Medical Association and Young Doctors Association has appealed to the Chief Minister Punjab to take personal interest in the matter and devise a solution by taking Health Department, CPSP and all doctors on board.

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