



## **Notification**

### **NABH HOPE Entry Level Certification Standards- Enhanced Benefits & Rationalised Fee- Regarding (Effective June 01, 2025)**

NABH extends sincere gratitude to all stakeholders for their continued trust and support in strengthening the quality of healthcare delivery in the country.

The NABH HOPE Entry Level Certification Standards were introduced in 2014 to support hospitals, specially smaller facilities, with limited resources, present in Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities, in embarking on their journey towards quality improvement and patient safety. Over the years, under this program, we have had the privilege of partnering with more than 13,000 hospitals, including both small healthcare facilities and larger institutions, such as those affiliated with medical colleges, all of which have benefited from these standards. Despite rising operational costs and inflation, the NABH HOPE Entry Level Certification program fee structure has remained unchanged for over 11 years.

#### **A. NABH HOPE Entry Level Certification - Rationalised Fee**

Considering the evolving requirements and to sustain the quality of services, NABH has rationalised the fee for the HOPE Entry Level Certification Program, effective from **June 01, 2025** (Annexure 1). The revision has been thoughtfully designed to ensure minimal impact on smaller healthcare facilities while proportionately adjusting the fee for larger hospitals in line with the number of beds, complexity of operations, scope and cost of assessment. NABH is also introducing additional benefits and value-added services for hospitals.

**Transition Support for all hospitals:** To support hospitals in transitioning to the rationalised fee structure, NABH will offer special pricing rebate on the HOPE Entry Level Certification Program for all applicants (Fresh & Renewal) until September 30, 2026, as outlined in Annexure 1.

#### **B. Pathway to Advanced Quality Standards for Hospitals Above 300 Beds**

Hospitals with larger bed capacity cater to a broader spectrum of healthcare services, managing higher levels of complexity. Given the scale and scope of their operations, it is essential for them to align with more comprehensive and rigorous standards to further strengthen patient care and safety. The HOPE Entry Level Certification, which was designed for smaller facilities, may not be best suited to address the complexities of larger hospitals. The NABH Hospital Accreditation program is more appropriate for such hospitals.

As part of a natural progression towards higher benchmarks of quality, hospitals with more than 300 beds are urged to transition to the Hospital Accreditation Program starting October 01, 2026. Effective this date, no fresh or renewal applications under the NABH HOPE Entry Level Certification Program will be accepted for such hospitals.

This policy change aligns with NABH's commitment to supporting hospitals in achieving comprehensive quality excellence tailored to their scale and complexity.



**Exceptions Post October 01, 2026:** The following hospitals with more than 300 beds will continue to be eligible for HOPE Entry Level Program post October 01, 2026:

- A new hospital commissioned on or after October 01, 2026 (for one cycle of HOPE Entry Level certification)
- All government-owned hospitals, regardless of their date of commissioning

**Transition Support to Hospital Accreditation Program:** NABH remains committed to supporting healthcare organizations throughout the transition process. NABH has created a team which will work closely with impacted hospitals to actively support their transition to the Hospital Accreditation Program.

### C. New NABH Benefits for Certified Hospitals

To enable hospitals to enhance their efforts in sustainability and use to Digital technology, NABH is offering two certifications to HOPE Entry Level certified hospitals complimentary until September 30, 2025. In addition, NABH will provide active support to hospitals in meeting these standards.

1. **Complimentary Self-Certification for Climate Change, Resilience & Sustainability** – Supporting hospitals in adopting sustainable healthcare practices.
2. **Early Adopter Program for Digital Health Standards (DHS) Silver Certification** – The first 300 hospitals with Entry-Level Certification applying for DHS Silver Certification will be eligible for a 50% subsidy on the Digital Health Standards (DHS) Silver Certification fee.

### D. Additional NABH Value-Added Services

As part of our commitment to supporting hospitals in achieving comprehensive quality excellence and enhancing patient safety, NABH is proactively introducing a range of value-added services for hospitals, especially smaller hospitals. These include:

- **Virtual Assessments** for hospitals with up to **5 beds**, minimizing logistical costs.
- **Optimized Assessor Man-days** to enhance efficiency in the certification process.
- **Freely Available Entry Level Standards** for Hospitals and SHCOs, ensuring easy access to quality guidelines.
- **AI-Enabled Chatbot** for instant resolution of queries (under development).
- **Free Downloadable Templates** of commonly used hospital forms for simplified implementation.
- **Regular Training Sessions** to assist hospitals in the application and assessment process.

The NABH Secretariat remains dedicated to empowering hospitals with greater support, enhanced digital solutions, and a transparent, sustainable pathway to quality healthcare.

The Policy shall be reviewed two years from the effective date, based on outcomes and feedback received.



## National Accreditation Board for Hospitals & Healthcare Providers

(Constituent Board of Quality Council of India)

### ANNEXURE 1: NABH HOPE Entry Level Certification Standards Revised Fees (From June 01, 2025)

Bed Category (Sanctioned Bed Strength)	Revised Rationalized HOPE Fee Structure for 2-Year Cycle (2- year fees payable upfront)	Pricing Rebate till September 30, 2026 (Note 1)	Applicable Fee till September 30, 2026 (Note 1)
Up to 5 beds	₹ 21,000	NA (No change in pricing)	₹ 21,000
6 to 20	₹ 40,000	25%	₹ 30,000
21 to 50	₹ 80,000	40%	₹ 48,000
51 to 100	₹ 1,60,000	40%	₹ 96,000
101 to 300	₹ 2,00,000	40%	₹ 1,20,000
301 to 500	Not applicable (See Note 2)		
501 & above	Not applicable (See Note 2)		

**Note 1:** Applicable for all Fresh/ Renewal Applications

**Note 2:** For hospitals above 300 beds, HOPE Entry Level Certification is not available after 1<sup>st</sup> October 2026. On an exceptional basis, such hospitals can apply for HOPE Entry Level Certification until September 30, 2026, which will remain valid for 2-years from date of certification. The fees for such HOPE Certification will be Rs. 2.0 lacs (for 301-500 beds) and Rs. 2.5 lacs (501+ beds), post pricing rebate.

Thanking you,

Sincerely yours,

(Dr. Atul Mohan Kochhar)  
CEO-NABH