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Media alert from the Media Scanning & Verification Cell, IDSP-NCDC.

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4001	23.04.2017	24.04.2017	Nagpur Maharashtra	www.timesofindi.com/English <a href="http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/nagpur/city-hospitals-see-rise-in-gastro-cases-but-its-not-alarming-yet/articleshow/58317442.cms">http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/nagpur/city-hospitals-see-rise-in-gastro-cases-but-its-not-alarming-yet/articleshow/58317442.cms</a>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Nagpur hospitals see rise in gastro cases, but it's not alarming, yet</b>			
Action By CSU, IDSP -NCDC	Information communicated to DSU-Nagpur SSU-Maharashtra			

There has been a substantial rise in the gastro-enteritis cases in the Isolation Hospital of the Nagpur Municipal Corporation (NMC), especially the last fortnight. Though the situation is not alarming yet, 97 cases of gastro have been treated the hospital in April so far. The hospital is admitting 6-7 severe gastro cases every day.

The hospital has a capacity of 40 patients. On Saturday too, six new patients were admitted to the hospital.

Dr S Shinde, in-charge of the hospital, told TOI that the hospital, from March 2016 to March 2017, recorded 927 cases. But in April alone, it has treated 97 patients. "Most of the patients coming to our hospital are very poor, mostly from slums. They have no idea about prevention from gastroenteritis. They also come to us only when they are completely dehydrated," he said.

The people coming to the hospital, says Dr Shinde, is not aware of personal hygiene. They are not even aware of proper hand wash methods. They fall ill due to consumption of lemon water available on thelax, or drinking water cooled using

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**Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP), National Centre for Disease Control,  
Ministry Of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India**

**22-Sham Nath Marg, Delhi – 110 054**

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substandard ice.

"In fact, people from all sections of society fall ill after eating in marriages during this time. Poor people are no exception to this. The rising temperature has an added effect as it prompts people to drink cold things outside the house. But most infections are waterborne," said Dr Shinde. Isolation hospital patients are given IV fluids as well as antibiotics in most of the cases.

Paediatricians as well as general physicians in the private sector, too, are reporting an increase in gastro patients. But they claim that the situation is far from alarming. Senior paediatrician Dr Satish Deopujari says he gets 8-10 gastro patients every day. He says majority of the children can be treated with ORS alone.

Another paediatrician, Dr Anand Bhutada, too said that he has been getting 5-6 patients daily of late. "Most of these patients can be treated conservatively by giving them lots of fluid. But parents should be on the look out for urine output. In case of decreased output, the child should be shown to the doctor," he said.

Dr Rajesh Atal, physician and intensivist, says that he is seeing gastro patients but not in a large number. He too believes that most don't need antibiotic as the infections are mostly viral. "But this is surely a time to be cautious and taking preventive measures," he said.

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