



COVID-19 EDITION
MARCH 23-MAY 10, 2020

CANSUPPORT

CanSupport in the time of COVID-19 Pandemic

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

1. More than **1900** Home visits till date have been made to carry out procedures and care for those with severe distress.
2. Outpatient Clinics dispensed free medicines and medical supplies to **175** patients and gave free ration to **112** destitute patients.
3. More than **3000** families were educated about COVID-19.
4. **2380** Mask, **673** sanitizer and **190** Ration packages given till date.
5. Preparation of Ration support for **547** families is under process with the help of OXFAM.
6. More than **1500** tele consultations per week and an equal number of whatsapp messages to ascertain whether patients have relief from symptoms and other problems.

INTRODUCTION

As soon as the COVID-19 crisis hit in early March followed by subsequent lockdown, the CanSupport team started connecting with experts, government officials, partners and organizations on the ground to identify efforts with the maximum impact and reach to control the disease spread.

Our main focus being how to provide best possible care to cancer patients and their families as cancer patients are immunocompromised and one of the most vulnerable group susceptible to COVID-19.

Our teams of doctors, nurses, counselors, social workers and volunteers have been working tirelessly to continue to serve patients struggling with cancer and their families on various fronts.

In order to effectively respond to the magnitude of the problem, CanSupport is doing the following activities:





HOME BASED SUPPORT FOR CANCER PATIENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES

To make home visit safe, stringent care protocols and safety measures have been put into place for our palliative care teams through use of PPEs allowing them to ensure the well-being of patients and their loved ones at all times. The teams prioritized their visits in discussion with the families, based on the criticality of their medical, nursing and counselling needs. While 50% patients continue to be visited aggressively in their homes to meet their vital needs, the remaining are being visited on a dynamic call-basis. In addition to palliative care support, the patients and families are being made aware of key aspects of COVID-19 and ways of prevention.

Poor patients are also being provided with supplies of essential ongoing medicines and nursing items, hygiene kits (masks, gloves, soap cakes, sanitizers, sanitary pads, etc) and nutritional supplements for boosting immunity.

TELEPHONE HELPLINE

Our helpline was also rapidly trained and equipped with directory of networks to offer COVID-19 related information to callers.

The helpline counselors actively offer :-

- Key messages on prevention and control of COVID-19, including hygiene, social distancing and isolation
- Referrals to support COVID-19 support hubs and networks.
- Emotional support and grief counselling

OUTPATIENT CLINICS SUPPORT

Our outpatient clinics continue to extend medical, nursing and counseling support to patients under cancer treatment from government hospitals. Education on COVID-19 prevention, hygiene kits and dry ration support to destitute patients are pro-active additional services being offered to about 50 patients visiting our clinics daily.



LOCKDOWN STORY



"Rahmuddin, a patient suffering from Rectal CA had gone to his village in Tanda, Bulandshahr before the lockdown. But due to lockdown he became helpless as he ran out of his medicine for pain and bleeding. Unable to buy medicines the patient called CanSupport doctor for help. The doctor helped him by contacting local government officials who procured and delivered the medicines to the patients. "



HUMANITARIAN SUPPORT BY DAY CARE VOLUNTEERS

Our team of Day Care are real-time heroes who continue to personally remain in touch with their patients and families over phone who have not been able to return to their native places and are living in Dharamshalas.

The volunteers are also mobilizing in-kind items to extend as much humanitarian care as possible to people staying at Dharamshala's near cancer hospitals in Delhi (Safdarjung Hospital, Institute Rotary Cancer Hospital and Delhi State Cancer Institute) and distributing home-cooked meals, medicines, masks, soaps and sanitizers.

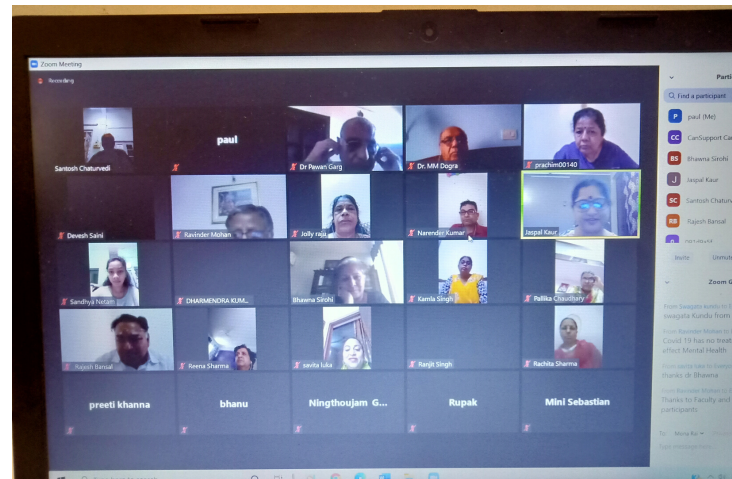
Many volunteers have taken to making cotton face masks themselves. Ample food ration is being collected through friends and donors for these patients.

A special income generation program is being organized wherein cotton fabric and sewing items are being procured and given to the families for stitching them into masks and getting paid for them. The masks are then sterilized and distributed for use. Earning may not be much but is enough to sustain them and their sense of self-worth.

FORMATION OF SPECIAL MENTORING TASKFORCE

CanSupport mentoring team has formed a taskforce who are conducting regular sessions and webinars to:

- Update the teams on the latest information of Covid-19 and Government guidelines;
- Equip healthcare professionals and workers in difficult communication with patients and families especially relating to impending death and coping with their own emotions and stress in these times;
- Engage with our corporate partners in helping their employees deal with the stress and anxiety of the economic downturn, working from home and uncertainty;
- Helping other organisations working in home based palliative care in strategic planning and logistical management of home care.





The team nurse inserted a Foley's catheter, with utmost precaution and drained the urine. Rupam was also suffering from constipation so a manual evacuation of faecal matter was done. She however continued to feel breathless, hence the doctor suggested the nurse to do ascitic tap procedure at home and about 1500ml of Ascetic fluid was drained. After the procedure Rupam felt very relieved and could drink some juice. The doctor prescribed some medicine and also provided the medicines for Rupam that would give her some relief.

LOCKDOWN STORY: STORY OF RUPAM

This is the story of Rupam Devi (name changed), aged 48 years, who was in her last stage of cancer. The team used to visit her once a week to check on her condition.

On March 24, 2020 when the national lockdown was announced owing to the CoVID Pandemic, the team got a call that Rupam has developed severe breathlessness due to abdominal swelling.

Since there was no transport available, they were unable to take her to the hospital. Seeing Rupam's condition was making her family members anxious.

The next day CanSupport team comprising of Dr. Santha and Nurse Mini Sebastin visited Rupam. When they saw Rupam, she was feeling very breathless, her abdomen was swollen, and on examination they found there was suprapubic fullness.

PARTNER TESTIMONIAL

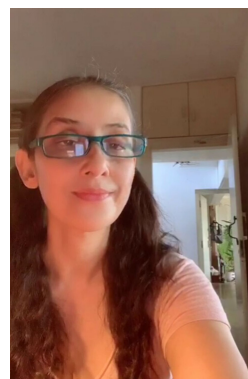


**Tech
Mahindra**

"CANSUPPORT is a great initiative to support Cancer patients, survivors and their families. We stand in support of CANSUPPORT, and I truly respect the good work being done by them."

CP Gurnani,
Chief Executive Officer &
Managing Director,
Tech Mahindra Limited

MANISHA KOIRALA'S TESTIMONIAL



Manisha Koirala shared a video message about how CanSupport is helping cancer patients in covid-19 pandemic crisis on social media.

CANSUPPORT APPEAL

Help protect critical cancer patients from Covid-19. CanSupport provides free palliative care to cancer patients in their homes. Most of the patients we serve are from poor marginalized backgrounds.

For CSR partnership: contact Richa:98119101035 ; richa.aggarwal@cansupport.org

For individual donations: contact Navdha: 93159 05193 ; navdha@cansupport.org