

## Aadhaar desirable for Ayushman Bharat healthcare, not must



The use of Aadhaar card is desirable for availing the Central government's Ayushman Bharat health insurance plans, but it is no more a necessity - announced the Union Health Ministry today.

Clearing off the air about mandates associated with Aadhaar, the Centre has provided the Ayushman Bharat National Health Protection Scheme (NHPS) a breather by uplifting the need of Aadhaar card to avail health insurance. In a remarkable announcement, the Union Health Ministry announced today that use of Aadhaar Card is desirable but not a must to avail benefits under the Ayushman Bharat. The notification also included that 'under Section 7 of the Aadhaar Act merely enabled the implementation agencies to ask for authentication of identity.'

From now on, the use of Aadhaar card to authenticate any beneficiary individual is 'desirable', but it is not a must. And, everyone is eligible for accessing Centre's national health insurance scheme 'with or without' Aadhaar card. This will ease up the access of Ayushman Bharat scheme to common people that covers insurance of up to Rs 5 lakh per family per year to over 10 crore poor families for secondary and tertiary care hospitalisation.