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Neonatal Ambulances designed by IIT Madras deployed in the state

Hemali Chhappia | TNN | Feb 24, 2016, 10:11 PM IST



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MUMBAI: Health & Family Welfare Department (HFW), Government of Tamil Nadu has deployed 65 neonatal ambulances over the last 18 months based on design and technical recommendations from Healthcare Technology Innovation Centre - HTIC, IIT Madras.

According to the Dept. of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of Tamil Nadu, design elements and recommendations from HTIC during the project covered crucial aspects for improved safety and functionality of the neonatal ambulances. With the addition of these 65 ambulances, the state will cover 32 districts and is expected to conduct over 28,000 neonatal transports annually.

Bhaskar Ramamurthi, Director IIT Madras, added, "Research projects that yield direct and immediate benefits to the public form an important element of IITM's contributions to society. In this context, it gives us great satisfaction that our design for ambulances specifically meant for transporting newborns that need care has been deployed in our home state of Tamil Nadu".

Mohanasankar Sivaprakasam, Head, HTIC, described, "The process of arriving at the design involved detailed study during live handling of cases to identify all the performance and quality issues. Based on this set of observations, we developed a set of design and technical recommendations to mitigate the issues under the constraints of cost and space".

The new design of the ambulance overcomes challenges like loading the transport incubator, accessing the neonate, maintaining a clean and safe environment, limited space etc. Design modifications made by the HTIC team include installation of air suspension on base vehicle for easy loading on transport incubator by providing adjustable floor height while loading the incubator. It also reduces shock and vibration due to air suspension which provides a better ride experience for neonate and EMT personnel. Adjustable EMT seats and additional foldable seats at the head of incubator provide improved access to neonate. Other additions like an exhaust fan with auto shutter have also ensured a safe and clean environment inside the ambulance.

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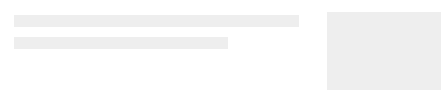
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