



ISSN 2456-3110

Vol 2 - Issue 1

Jan-Feb 2017

Journal of  
**Ayurveda and Integrated  
Medical Sciences**

*www.jaims.in*

JAIMS



**Charaka**  
Publications

Indexed

# Integration of Ayurvedic Medicine in Public Health Delivery System at primary level for UHC - An Evidence Based Study

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## ABSTRACT

**Background:** In developing country like India it is very difficult for people of low socio-economic status to get access to healthcare and in case they seek healthcare, cost of medicines becomes major reason for out of pocket expenditure, as all the medicines are not available in PHC. **Objective:** To collate Ayurvedic medicine with Allopathic medicine to provide choice of treatment to patient in view of UHC. **Methods:** A literature review on Ayurvedic drugs (single drug and formulations) was done after prioritizing the diseases for our study based on National programs and other frequently seen diseases in Primary healthcare (PHC). Evidence was collected in two ways, first by pure Ayurvedic evidence based on Samhitas and second was based on modern techniques and then tabulated. **Results:** Ayurvedic drug list for Primary Health Care was formulated based on available modern as well as Classical evidence and tabulated in the form of a table. **Conclusion:** Ayurvedic drugs can be integrated in PHC to provide universal health care at primary level.

**Key words:** Primary Health Care, Evidence Based Study.

## INTRODUCTION

Ayurveda recommends regulated diet, healthy life style, ethical principles supported with remedies and procedures to be followed everyday according to the season and individual need for the prevention of the disease and promotion of health. Every individual is identified on the basis of psycho somatic constitution. So he has to advocate individualized preventive and curative measures and also diverse prescription practices prevalent in different parts of the country

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Submission Date : 28/01/2017

Accepted Date: 29/02/2017

### Access this article online

#### Quick Response Code



Website: [www.jaims.in](http://www.jaims.in)

DOI: 10.21760/jaims.v2i1.7510

based on the leads from Classical text.<sup>[1]</sup>

Universal health coverage is a way to ensure equity and equality in health care to all people irrespective of their social status, class, caste, creed and religion. But in a developing country like India it is very difficult for people of low socio-economic status to get access to healthcare and in case they seek healthcare, cost of medicines becomes major reason for out of pocket expenditure as all the medicines are not available in PHC . And also many people believe in Ayurveda but there are no proper services provided for the same. Another benefit of integrating Ayurveda in PHC, locally available drugs can be used for treatment as India has diverse variety of medicinal plants. So in this study with regard to Universal Health Coverage, it is an attempt to integrate Ayurvedic medicine in PHC in order to provide better health care to people using evidence based approach.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

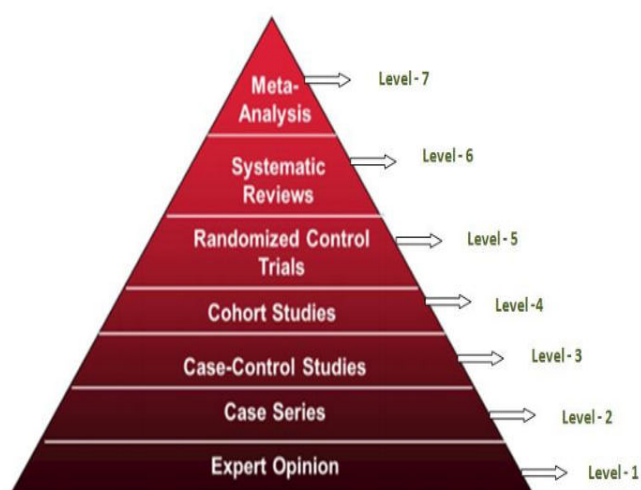
Prioritization of the diseases for the study is based on National programs and other frequently seen diseases

in PHC. A thorough literature search was done for these diseases and their treatment. The following is the list of the databases searched,

1. Pubmed central
2. NRHM website
3. CCRAS (Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences)
4. Ayurvedic Samhitas

After filtering the articles according to our selection of diseases and their Ayurvedic treatment, grading of the evidence was done based on the pyramid of evidence. Those evidences which did not fit into the pyramid, the type of study was mentioned, for example - laboratory study, animal based study etc., and the results are shown in the form of a table. The Ayurvedic drugs (single and formulations) whose evidence is not found in any database, reference was found from the Original Ayurvedic text and is mentioned in the table. In contrast with allopathic medicine, in Ayurveda, one particular drug will have different properties and can be used for different diseases with different *Anupana* (vehicle) i.e., water, honey, milk depending on the disease. And also one drug in combination with other drugs act differently in different diseases. So one may be found in different formulations but the action differs. This was kept in mind during the study.

**Pyramid of evidence**



**RESULTS**

**Table 1: Ayurvedic treatment by single drugs.**

No.	Ayurvedic diagnosis	Allopathic diagnosis	Ayurvedic treatment	
			Single drug	Evidence
<b>National programs</b>				
1.	Vishama jwara	Malaria	Cinnamon (57)	Laboratory study
		Dengue(34)	Papaya (58)	Systematic review/meta-analysis.
		Chikunguniya(26,35)	Ginger(63)	CCRAS
Shallaki	Clinical trial			
Guduchi (23)	Literature review			
2.	Rajayakshma	Tuberculosis (37, 38,40,41)	Yashtimadhu (glyzerizia glabra)(44)	Laboratory study
			Vasa (adathoda vasika) (39)	Clinical trial
3.	Madhumeha	Diabetes melitus	Kumari (Aloe vera)(47)	Meta – analysis (L7)
			Menthya (fenugreek)(46)	RCT(L5)
			Neem (azadirecta Indica)(45)	Laboratory study
			Ashwagandha(48)	RCT(L5)
			Karavellaka( Bittergourd)(44)	RCT(L5)
			Madhunashini ( gymnema sylvestris)	Literature review
			Haridra (turmeric) (42)	RCT(L5)

4.	Vatavyadhi	Stroke	Garlic(54)	Cross-sectional study.
			Ashwagandha(50)	Cross-sectional study.
5.	Hridroga	Hypercholesterolemia	Onion juice (52)	RCT(L5)-Pilot study
			Ashwagandha(21)	Literature review
			Arjuna	RCT (L5)
			Vachachurna (63)	CCRAS
		Dyslipidemia	Chirabilwa (holoptelea integrifolia)	Clinical trial
			Lashuna (garlic)(53)	Laboratory study
6.	Manasa Roga	Mental illness Anxiety	Tulsi (62)	Literature review
			Ashwagandha	Animal based study
			Jatamaamsi (10)	Laboratory study
7.	Raktachapa	Hypertension	Sarpagandha (rowalfia serpentina) (54)	Literature review
8.	Sandhivata	Osteoarthritis	Shallaki Shunti (Ginger) (55)	Clinical trial RCT (L5)
9.	Arshas	Haemorrhoids	Surana	Ashtanga Hrudaya-Arsho Chikitsa
10.	Pandua	Nutritional Anaemia	Punaranava	CCRAS(63)
			Dadima	
			Bhringaraja	
			Draksha	RCT (L5)
			Amalaki	

11.	Amavata	Rheumatid arthritis	Juice of these drugs+honey BD 3 months(22)	
			Black pepper (63)	CCRAS
			Guduchi (63)	CCRAS
			Shallaki	Clinical trial
			Ginger	RCT(L5)/Literature review
			Erandamoola Kwatha (66)	CCRAS
			Nirgundi kwatha(63)	CCRAS
Pippali (8)	RCT			
12.	Netra roga	Cataract	Chandana Hima	CCRAS(63)
			Bhringaraja Kwatha - tropical use	
			Amlaki kwatha	
			Haridra kwatha	
			Tulasi kwatha(tropical use)	
13.	Stree roga	DUB	Jatamamsi (13)	Laboratory study
			Amalaki churnam + honey	
			Nagakesara churnam + sugar	
			Laksha churnam + honey	
			Shatapushpa (8)	CCRAS(63)
		Leuchorroea	Amalaki churnam + honey	Clinical trial

			Nagakesara churnam + butter milk	
			Lodhra churna + water	CCRAS(63)
14.	Atisaara	Diarrhea	Bilwa(27)	Literature review
			Musta (Cyprus rotundus) (49)	Laboratory study
15.	Parinaama shoola	Hyperacidity ( gastro – deudenal ulcers)	Amalaki churna(16)	Laboratory study
			Shatavari churna	Literature review
			Yashtimadhu churn (43)	Laboratory study
			Infusion of bilwa leaves (25)	Literature review
16.	Kamala (yakruth shotha)	Hepatitis	Kumari swarasa + honey	CCRAS(63)
			Bhumiamalaki kashaya + milk	
			Guduchi swarasa + milk	
			Amalaki swarasa + grape + sugar + honey.	
17.	Charma Roga + Kustha Nasha	Psoriasis	Haridra Churna + water (application)	Literature review
18.	Sheeta pitta	Urticaria	Ardraka swarasa + honey (63)	CCRAS
			Amalaki churna + warm water	CCRAS
			Haridra churna + warm water	Literature review

			Rasona (alium sativum) kalka + water / milk (21)	Clinical trial
19.	Kushta	Eczema	Nimbi patra churna + water	CCRAS (63)
			Tulsi swarasa + honey	
			Kahdira churna + warm water	
			Nimba churna	
			Haridra churna	
			Gandhaka	
20.	Khalitya	Hair loss	Bhringaraja leaves extract	Literature review
21.	Mutra roga	UTI	Gokshua churna (1)	Laboratory study
			Ela + cows urine	CCRAS (63)
			Shilajitu + honey	
			Amalaki rasam + jaggery	
22.	Krimi	Worm infestation	Vidanga churna	CCRAS(63)
			Bilwa churna	
23.	Kasa and swasa	Sinusitis	Ardraka + butter	Literature review
			Vibhitaki churna + water	
			Maricha + jaggery	
		Bronchitis	Vasa (adathoda vasika) (13)	Literature review
24.	Pratishy aya	Rhinitis	Tulsi (59)	Literature review
			Pepper(59)	
			Shunti (59)	

Table 2: Ayurved treatment by formulations.

No.	Ayurvedic diagnosis	Allopathic diagnosis	Ayurvedic treatment	
			Formulation	Evidences
<b>National programs</b>				
1.	Vishamajwara	Malaria	Ayush 64(63)	Laboratory study (on Rhesus monkeys and mice)
			Kiratiktika (Swertia chirita) (29)	Systematic review(L6)
			Saptaparna(Alstonia scholaris) (27,28,29,30)	Laboratory study
			Bhunimba(Andrographis paniculata)(31,32,3)	Laboratory study
			Jwarahara dashemani(39)	Literature review
			Vettamaran + ginger juice(38)	Case report
			Guduchi satva(23)	Yogaratkara Rajayakshma Chikitsa 1/11
			Indukanata ghrutam	Sahasrayoga – Ghrityaparakarana
		Dengue(34)	Bhunimba(Andrographis paniculata) + Tulsi (Ocimum sanctum) (36,37)	Laboratory study

			Vettamaran (38)	Case report
		Chikungunya (26,35)	Bhunimba(Andrographis paniculata)	Laboratory study
			Neem (azadiracta indica)	
			Rasna (alpinia galanga)	
2.	Rajayakshma	Tuberculosis (37,38,40,41)	Decoction of guduchi + parpataka + kanthakari + vasa	Laboratory study
			Amrutarishta	
			Sudarshanarishtha	
3.	Madhumeha	Diabetes melitus	Nishamalaki (43)	Laboratory study
			Avipattikara churna followed Nyagrodadhi ghana vati (combined therapy)(5)	Laboratory study
			Chyavanaprashna (12)	Clinical trial Laboratory/ case control
			Triphala (11)	Laboratory study
4.	Vatavyadhi	Stroke	Ksheerabala taila	Ay-Reference – Sahasrayoga
5.	Hridroga	Hypercholesterolemia	Triphala churna (6)	Laboratory study
			Vaunaadikwatha (8)	Literature review
			Triphalaguggulu(3)	Laboratory study

			Amrutaadi guggulu(3)	Literature review
		Dyslipedemi a	Ashwagandhari shta(21)	Literature review
			Chyavanaprash a (12)	Case control study (L3)
			Arogyavardhini vati(24)	RCT (L5)
6.	Manasa Roga		Mental illness Anxiety	Manasa mitra vati
7.	Raktach aapa	Hypertensio n	Manasa mitra vati	Sahasra yoga
			Sarpagandhami shrana(57)	Literature review
			Arjuna + haritaki + shatavari + shunti + ashwagandha	Literature review
8.	Sandhiv ata	Osteoarthritis	Yogaraja guggulu (3,56)	Laborator y study /clinical trial
			Ashwagandha ( withania somnifera) + Shallaki + Haridra + Zinc (Yashada Bhasma) (24)	Hospital based study
9.	Arshas	Haemorrhoids	Guda + Haritaki + buttermilk	CCRAS(63 )
			Takrarishta	CCRAS(63 )
			Chirubilwadi Kashaya (50)	Clinical trial
10.	Pandu	Nutritional Anaemia	Sutashekhara rasa + sitopaladi churna(10)	RCT(L5)

			Draksharishta( 17)	Literature review
			Amalaki rasyana(19)	RCT(L5)
			Ayaskriti	CCRAS(63 )
			Lohasava	
			Navayasa churna	
			Trikatrayadi loha (paediatric use – suspension IDA) (60)	RCT (L5)
			Mandura vatakam	CCRAS (63)
			Dadimadi ghurutam	
			Vyoshadi ghurutam	
			Dhatri arishta	
			Dhatri loha	
11.	Amavata	Rheumatid arthritis	Simhanada guggulu(21)	Clinical trial
			Vardhaman pippali(22)	Clinical trial
			Dashamoolaris hta + Pippalai asava + vettamaran (63)	CCRAS
			Rasonadi kashya (18)	Clinical trial
			Vatari guggulu+ maharasnadi kwatha (21)	Clinical trial
12.	Stoulya	Obesity	Gomutra haritaki + diet control+ exercise (medicine advised if patient has no issues ) (20)	RCT (L5)



12.	Netra roga	Cataract	Triphala churna /kwatha (aqueous extract)(61)	Laboratory study
		Allergic conjunctivitis	Chandrodaya varti Haridra khanda	CCRAS
13.	Stree roga	DUB	Ashokarishta+ashwagandha churna(5)	Clinical trial
			Pushyanuga churna	CCRAS(63)
			Lodhrasava	
			Chandraprabha vati(65)	Laboratory study
		Rajah pravrtini vati(63)	CCRAS	
		Leuchorrhoea	Pushynuga churna Balasarpi Ashokarishta	CCRAS(63)
		Triphala /panchavalkala kwatha for Vaginal douche (14)	Clinical trial	
14.	Atisaara	Diarrhea	Shadanga toyam	Ashtanga hrudaya-atisaara chikitsa
			Bilwaadi lehyam	
15.	Parinaama shoola	Hyperacidity ( gastro – deudenal ulcers)	Avipattikara churna (4)	Laboratory study
			Drakshadi lehyam(20)	Laboratory study
			Dadimaadi ghruta	Ashtanga Hrudaya – Atisaara chikitsa
16.	Kamala (yakrut h shotha)	Hepatitis	Vasaguduchyadi kashaya	CCRAS(63)

			Patola katurhini kwata	
			Guduchyadi kwatha	
			Sudarshana churna	
			Avipattikara churna	
			Punarnava mandura	
17.	Charma Roga + Kustha Nasha	Psoriasis	Eladi churna,	CCRAS(63)
			Manjistadi quatha	
			Tiktaka ghruta	
			Marichyadi taila	
18.	Sheeta pitta	Urticaria	Haridra khanda	CCRAS(63)
			Manjistadi kwatha	
			Triphala churna	
			Nimbadi churna	
19.	Kushta	Eczema	Manjistadi Lepa(15)	Clinical trial
			Marichyadi tailam	
			Pancha tiktaka ghrutam Nimbadi churna/taila	
20.	Khalitya	Hair loss	Ecllypta alba ( bhringa raja ) leaves 15% + centalia ashatica (manduka parni) leaves15% + T. Chebula fruit (haritaki) 10%, T. Bellarica (vibhitaki) fruit 10 % + phyllantus	Literature review



			emmblica (amalaki) fruit 15% + yashtimadhu (g. Glabra root 15% + guduchi T. cardifolia stem 10%, tribullus terrestris friuits 10%	
21.	Mutra roga	UTI	Gokshuradi guggulu(7)	Clinical trial
			Punarnavadi kwatha(14)	Clinical trial
			Chandra prabhavati(62)	Laborator y study
			Bhruhtyadi kwatha	CCRAS(63 )
			Dashamoola haritaki	
			Punaranavasava	
			Varunadi kwatha (7)	Clinical trial
22.	Krimi	Worm infestation	Krimigna vati (63)	CCRAS(63 )
23.	Kasa and swasa	Sinusitis	Anu tailam	CCRAS(63 )
			Rasnadi churna	
			Vyoshadi vati(9)	Clinical trial
			Pathyashadanga Kwatha	Sahasra yoga
		Bronchitis	Talisaadi Churna (2)	Laborator y study
			Sitopaladi churna(2)	Laborator y study
Dashamoolakat utrayam(2)	Laborator y study			
Kushmanda avalehham	Ashtanga hrudaya – kasa chikitsa			
24.	Pratishy aya	Rhinitis	Vyoshadi vatakam (9)	Clinical trial

			Dhoopana-varti ( daruharidra + ghee)	CCRAS(63 )
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## DISCUSSION

With this study evidence for many locally available drugs and Ayurvedic formulations, is found which can be used in the PHC in order to treat the selected diseases. As out of pocket expenditure is one of the major problem in developing country like India, and people with low socio economic status are the most affected. This study is a first step towards providing Universal health coverage to people by incorporating Ayurvedic drugs and formulation in PHC. And as many of the drugs can be grown locally and local treatment can be provided, and the cost to be spent on specific drugs decreases hence, it can be cost effective.

This study tries to prove that Ayurvedic (single drugs and formulations) can be incorporated in PHC's using an evidence based approach. The evidence we have collected is based on modern techniques and Ayurvedic Samhitas (Original texts). Further studies are to be conducted in this regard and to support our present study.

## Limitations

1. The evidence graded is based on the pyramid of evidence, and those drugs which do not fall under any level of this pyramid, the type of study is mentioned, therefore further studies are needed to be conducted in this regard.
2. In contrast to Allopathic diagnosis and treatment, Ayurveda differs in both. The diagnosis method differs as well as treatment. Therefore one single drug in different combinations and with different vehicles (*Anupana*) can be used for different diseases. So exact comparison with Allopathic diagnosis and treatment is a bit difficult. But we have tried our best to compare both the diagnosis and provide list of Ayurvedic medicines for their integration in PHC.

3. Concentration of our study is only limited to pharmaceutical aspect.

## CONCLUSION

The study aims to provide set of Ayurvedic medicines to be incorporated in PHC in view of providing Universal Health Care for all. As health is a human right and in order to have a better country and to add to the economy of our country we need healthy individuals. Our study is the first step towards this direction. In conclusion, mentioned set of medicines on evidence based approach, can be integrated in PHC's. Further studies are to be conducted to support our view.

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**How to cite this article:** Rayeesa Zainab, Karthika .P, Irfanahamad A. S, Gulappa M.D. Integration of Ayurvedic Medicine in Public Health Delivery System at primary level for UHC - An Evidence Based Study. J Ayurveda Integr Med Sci 2017;1:193-204 <http://dx.doi.org/10.21760/jajms.v2i1.7510>

**Source of Support:** Nil, **Conflict of Interest:** None declared.

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