

# Clinical engineering is the developing face of healthcare

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**Pune:** A modern hospital offering advanced medical care involves extensive use of a variety of equipment and technologies, which must be properly maintained by the authorities. A failure to do so can prove harmful in the care of patients, said Brig Pawan Kapoor, professor and head of the department of hospital administration at the Armed Forces Medical College (AFMC).

Kapoor was briefing the media about the International Clinical Engineering Workshop scheduled to be held in the city between February 20 and 25.

He said, "Over the past few decades, health care has increasingly become technology-driven, be it the development of new drugs, vaccines, medical devices or even diagnostic techniques." This was the second workshop in India to address these issues. It is being jointly organised by the College of Engineering Pune and Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute of Medical Sciences and Technology, Trivandrum, at the CoEP auditorium.

"The objective of the workshop is to highlight the need for high-level training and certification for clinical engineers in India's hospitals and send recommendations to the central and state governments. The aim is to achieve safe and effective use of medical devices and equipment, thereby eliminating unintended harm to patients," said S D Agashe, dean (academics) at CoEP.

The AFMC and three leading members of the growing health-care sector, Fortis Healthcare Limited, Max Health-

## Essentials of the workshop

The workshop will include training modules which will enable clinical engineers working in hospitals to learn about modern methods in clinical engineering practice and, thus, upgrade their knowledge and skills and help build competencies in essential areas. An opportunity for hands-on training on test equipments and equipment management software are the special highlights. Participants will include clinical engineers, biomedical engineers, hospital administrators, clinicians, academic and teaching faculty, students, NGO representatives and industry personnel. These well-trained and qualified clinical engineers can also form an effective link between the clinicians and product developers and manufacturers, thus providing innovative scientific and technological solutions.

## Who are clinical engineers?

Clinical engineers are responsible for effective management of technology and ensuring safe usage of equipment in hospitals. An urgent need has been felt in India to have a strong force of well-trained, qualified and certified clinical engineers. This will significantly increase patient safety and help achieve effective and optimal utilisation of medical equipment, which, in turn, will lead to improved quality and reduced overall cost of health-care delivery.

## Aims and objectives

- ▶ Highlight the urgent need for high-level training and certification for clinical engineers in hospitals across India and send recommendations to the Central and State governments
- ▶ Achieve safe and effective use of medical devices and equipment and eliminate unintended harm to patients
- ▶ Formulate the constitution of clinical engineering council of India to be established as a wing of biomedical engineering society of India for certification of clinical engineers
- ▶ Provide a common platform for experts and professionals to discuss important challenges faced by the clinical engineers and identify possible ways to move forward

care Institute and Deenanath Mangeshkar Hospital and Research Centre are supporting the workshop as academic partners. Faculty from renowned organisations in UK and India will speak during the meet

"Another highlight of the inaugural function is the release of Elsevier India's low-priced Indian edition of the book titled 'Medical Devices: Use and Safety' by Bertil Jacobson and Alan Murray," said Niranjan Khambete of Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology.