

# Telemedicine comes to Mandi region

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Patients in the region now need not to go to other cities and towns for specialised medical treatment as hospitals in the Mandi-Kullu-Hamipur region have been linked through the telemedicine system to Indira Gandhi Medical College (IGMC), Shimla, and the PGI, Chandigarh, offering online consultancy by experts.

Health officials said the telemedicine system of health services would also take care of shortage of

specialists in civil and district hospitals in the state.

Mandi zonal hospital, Karsog civil hospital, Jhenjheli primary health centre in Mandi district, Kullu regional hospital, Banjar civil hospital in Kullu district and Hamirpur district hospital have been linked to the IGMC, Shimla, through telemedicine initiative. The patients will also have the facility of getting treatment diagnosis online from the PGI.

The patients will start benefiting under the initiative from early March. Medical superintendent of

Mandi zonal hospital Prem Lal Poonam said equipment had been installed and patients will get telemedicine consultancy after the trial run on March 5. "Patients in Mandi, Jhenjheli and Karsog will be linked directly to the IGMC and later to the PGI."

Kullu's chief medical officer S.K. Malhotra said the telemedicine equipments were being installed at Kullu regional hospital and Banjar civil hospital.

"The online service will take care of unnecessary referral cases to the IGMC or the PGI," he added.