

Table 2: Challenges to Referral Summarized (Supplementary material 2)

Personal Level Factors	Environmental Level Factors	Health System Level Factors	Policy Level Factors
Self referral leading to overcrowding at tertiary centers	Lack of access to transportation in rural areas	Lack of formal referral protocol	Insufficient financial support from government schemes
Unnecessary cases referred to specialized centers		Lack of formal referral forms and letters	Inadequate national health insurance coverage
Self arrangement of transportation from patient party		Lack of CVD manpower and resources at lower level healthcare	
		Centralization of CVD specific services	
		Lack of communication before referral	
		No attending medical personnel during patient transfer	
		Referral solely based on bed availability	