



November 29, 2024

To,

The Board of Directors,

**Aster DM Healthcare Limited**

Awfis, 2nd floor 27 & 27/1, Renaissance Centra

Mission Rd, Rama Nagar, Bengaluru

Karnataka – 560027

India

**Sub: Recommendation of fair equity share exchange ratio for the proposed merger of Quality Care India Limited into Aster DM Healthcare Limited**

In terms of our engagement with Aster DM Healthcare Limited ("Aster DM or Company"), Aster DM has requested ICICI Securities ("I-Sec") to provide a fairness opinion on the Share Exchange Ratio recommended for the merger of Quality Care India Limited ("Care Hospitals") into Aster DM Healthcare Limited through a Scheme of Amalgamation by PwC Business Consulting Services LLP ("PwC") who are Independent Valuers appointed by the Company ("Proposed Transaction").

**BACKGROUND, PURPOSE AND USE OF THIS FAIRNESS OPINION**

Aster DM Healthcare Limited is one of the largest private healthcare service providers operating in India with hospital presence across 5 states. Aster DM hospitals have presence across primary, secondary, tertiary, and quaternary healthcare through 19 hospitals, 13 clinics, 215 pharmacies, 232 labs and bed capacity of 4,867 beds. Equity shares of the Company are listed on the National Stock Exchange of India Limited ("NSE") and Bombay Stock Exchange Limited ("BSE").

Quality Care India Limited is operator of multi-speciality hospitals which delivers clinical specialties in oncology, neurosciences, renal sciences, gastroenterology and hepatology as well as cardiac sciences. It operates 17 healthcare facilities serving 7 cities across 6 states in India. It is the regional leader in South and Central India and is amongst the top 5 Pan-Indian hospital chains. Blackstone holds ~73% stake in Quality Care India Limited while balance ~27% is held by TPG.

PwC as Independent Valuers have been engaged by Aster DM to recommend determine and recommend the Share Exchange Ratio for the Proposed Transaction, with 28 November 2024 being the Valuation date considered by PwC. In this connection, we have been requested by Aster DM to render an opinion on whether equity share exchange ratio determined and recommended by the Independent Valuers is fair.



The Registered Valuers has recommended the following Share Exchange Ratio for the Proposed Transaction:

**977 (Nine Hundred and Seventy-Seven) equity share of Aster DM (of INR 10 each fully paid up) for every 1,000 (One Thousand) equity share of Quality Care India Limited (of INR 10 each fully paid up).**

This fairness opinion is intended only for the sole use and information of the Board of Directors of Aster DM and only in connection with the Proposed Transaction. We are not responsible in any way to any other person / party for any decision of such person or party based on this fairness opinion. Any person / party intending to provide finance / invest in the shares / business of any of the companies involved in the Proposed Transaction or their subsidiaries / joint ventures / associates shall do so after seeking their own professional advice and after carrying out their own due diligence procedures to ensure that they are making an informed decision. It is hereby notified that any reproduction, copying or otherwise quoting of this fairness opinion or any part thereof, other than in connection with the Transaction as aforesaid can be done only with our prior permission in writing.

#### **SOURCES OF INFORMATION**

In arriving at our opinion set forth below, we have relied on:

- a) Discussions (including verbal) with, the draft and final valuation report and workings of the Independent Valuer;
- b) Audited financials for three years ending 31 March 2024 (balance sheet and profit and loss account) of both Aster DM and Care Hospitals;
- c) Limited Review financials (balance sheet and profit and loss account) of Aster DM for the period 1 April 2024 to 30 September 2024;
- d) Audited financials (balance sheet and profit and loss account) of Care Hospitals for the period 1 April 2024 to 31 August 2024;
- e) Financial projections of Aster DM and Care Hospitals from 1 October 2024 to 31 March 2029 (including forecasted profit and loss accounts, capital expenditure and working capital requirements) and 1 September 2024 to 31 March 2029 respectively;
- f) Market prices of Aster DM Healthcare Limited as published by NSE/BSE
- g) Extracts pertaining to Quality of Earning Statement and Net Debt Statement from the due diligence reports on Aster DM and Care Hospitals as of 31 March 2024
- h) Obtained and analysed data of peers available in public domain (including from Bloomberg), as deemed relevant by us for the purpose of the present exercise; and
- i) Other relevant information and documents for the purpose of this engagement.



## SCOPE LIMITATIONS

Our fairness opinion is subject to the scope limitations detailed hereinafter. As such the fairness opinion is to be read in totality, and not in parts, in conjunction with the relevant documents referred to therein.

Our work does not constitute an audit, due diligence or certification of the historical financial statements in relation to the Company including their respective working results or businesses referred. Accordingly, we are unable to and do not express an opinion on the accuracy of any financial information referred to in this fairness opinion. Our analysis and results are specific to the purpose of the exercise of giving our fairness opinion as described hereinabove. It may not be valid for any other purpose or if provided on behalf of any other entity.

We have considered financial information up to 30 September 2024 for Aster DM and 31 August 2024 for Care Hospitals in our analysis and have made adjustments for facts made known to us till the date of our report. Further, we have considered market data and the related financial information till 28 November 2024. Our fairness opinion does not take account of events or circumstances arising after the said date and we have no responsibility to update the report for such events or circumstances. An exercise of this nature involves consideration of various factors. This fairness opinion is issued on the understanding that the Company has drawn our attention to all the matters which may have an impact on our opinion including any significant changes that have taken place or are likely to take place in the financial position or businesses up to the date of approval of the Proposed Transaction by the Board of Directors. We have no responsibility to update this fairness opinion for events and circumstances occurring after this date.

In the course of the present exercise, we were provided with both written and verbal information, including financial data. The terms of our engagement were such that we were entitled to rely upon the information provided without detailed inquiry. Also, we assume that the management of the Company, has not omitted any relevant and material factors for the purposes of the work which we have undertaken in connection with this fairness opinion.

We shall have no obligation to verify the accuracy or completeness of any information or express any opinion or offer any form of assurance regarding the accuracy or completeness of such information and shall not assume any liability therefor. We assume no responsibility whatsoever for any errors in the information furnished to us and their impact on the present exercise.

We express no opinion whatsoever and make no recommendation at all to the shareholders or secured or unsecured creditors of the Company, as to how they should vote at their respective meetings, if any held in connection with the Proposed Transaction. We do not express and should not be deemed to have expressed any views on any other





term of the Proposed Transaction. We also express no opinion and accordingly accept no responsibility with respect to the financial performance of the Company following the consummation of the Proposed Transaction. We also express no opinion on the likely market price of the Company post the consummation of the Proposed Transaction.

No investigation with respect to the claim to title of assets of the Company has been made for the purpose of this exercise and the same has been assumed to be valid. We have not placed any individual value on the assets of the Company and have also not considered any liens or encumbrances on the same. Further we have not opined and accordingly do not take responsibility whatsoever for matters of a legal nature. Also, we are not opining on matters related to taxation. This fairness opinion should not be construed as a certification regarding the compliance of the Proposed Transaction with the provisions of any law including Companies Act, tax laws and capital market related laws or as regards any legal implications or issues arising from the Proposed Transaction.

In the ordinary course of business, ICICI Securities Limited and its affiliates is engaged in securities trading, securities brokerage and investment activities, as well as providing investment banking and investment advisory services. In the ordinary course of its trading, brokerage and financing activities, any member of ICICI Securities Limited may at any time hold long or short positions, and may trade or otherwise effect transactions, for its own account or the accounts of customers, in debt or equity securities or senior loans of any company that may be involved in the Proposed Transaction.

In arriving at our opinion, we have assumed and relied upon, without any independent verification or validation, the accuracy and completeness of the financial and other information and data publicly available or provided to or otherwise reviewed by or discussed with us and have relied upon the assurances of the management of Aster DM that they are not aware of any facts or circumstances that would make such information or data inaccurate or misleading in any material respect. With respect to the financials and forecasts, we have been advised by Aster DM, and have assumed, that: (i) they have been reasonably prepared and/or confirmed on bases reflecting the best currently available estimates and good faith judgements of the management of Aster DM as to the future financial performance of the Companies or their respective subsidiaries and/or associates, and (ii) they are based on the understanding of the management of Aster DM of the current business strategy, operations, competition and macro-economic indicators and involves known and unknown risks, uncertainties, assumptions, and other factors that may cause the actual results to be materially different from any future results, performance or achievements expressed or implied by the financials and forecast of the Companies or their respective subsidiaries and/or associates.

Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, we have also assumed, at the direction of Aster DM, their respective subsidiaries and associates, as applicable, will receive all statutory clearances with respect to their respective operations in accordance with the assumptions regarding such clearances in their financials and forecasts.



We have been informed by the management of Aster DM that the financials and forecasts provided to us have been prepared in accordance with Indian Accounting Standards (Ind-AS). We have not made or been provided with any independent evaluation or appraisal of the assets or liabilities (contingent or otherwise) of the Companies or their respective subsidiaries and/or associates, as applicable, and/or any other entity (other than the Valuation Report, which we have reviewed and relied upon without independent verification for purposes of this opinion), nor have we made any physical inspection or title verification of the properties or assets of the Companies, their respective subsidiaries and/or associates, as applicable, and/or any other entity, and we do not express any opinion as to the value of any asset of the Companies, their respective subsidiaries and/or associates, as applicable, and/or any other entity, whether at current prices or in the future. We have not evaluated the solvency or fair value of the Companies, their respective subsidiaries and/or associates, as applicable, and/or any other entity under the laws of India or any other laws relating to bankruptcy, insolvency or similar matters.

We have assumed, at the direction of Aster DM, that the Transaction will be consummated in accordance with its terms, without waiver, modification or amendment of any material term, condition or agreement and that, in the course of obtaining the necessary governmental, judicial, regulatory and other approvals, consents, releases and waivers for the Transaction, no delay, limitation, restriction or condition, including any divestiture requirements or amendments or modifications, will be imposed that would have an adverse effect on Aster DM, their respective subsidiaries and/or associates, as applicable, and/or any other entity or the contemplated benefits of the Transaction. We also have assumed, at the direction of Aster DM, that the final executed Scheme will not differ in any material respect from the Draft Scheme reviewed by us.

We have not undertaken any independent analysis of any potential or actual litigation, regulatory action, possible unasserted claims, or other contingent liabilities, or any settlements thereof, to which Aster DM, their respective subsidiaries and/or associates, as applicable, and/or any other entity, are or may be a party or are or may be subject, and this opinion does not consider the potential effects of any such litigation, actions, claims, other contingent liabilities or settlements.

We express no view or opinion as to any terms or other aspects or implications of the Transaction (other than the Ratios to the extent expressly specified herein), including, without limitation, the form or structure of the Transaction, the taxation impact of the Transaction or the Equity Shares issued and allotted under the Transaction or any terms or other aspects or implications of any other agreement, arrangement or understanding entered into in connection with or related to the Transaction or otherwise. We were not requested to, and we did not, participate in the negotiation of the terms of the Transaction. Our opinion does not address any matters otherwise than as expressly stated herein, including but not limited solely to matters such as corporate governance, shareholder rights or any other equitable consideration, and is limited to the fairness, from a financial





point of view, to the Public Shareholders of Aster DM of the Ratios provided for in the Scheme and no opinion or view is expressed with respect to any consideration received in connection with the Transaction by the holders of any other class of securities, creditors or other constituencies of any party. In addition, no opinion or view is expressed with respect to the fairness (financial or otherwise) of the amount, nature or any other aspect of any compensation to any of the officers, directors or employees of any party to the Transaction, or class of such persons, relative to the Ratios. Furthermore, no opinion or view is expressed as to the relative merits of the Transaction in comparison to other strategies or transactions that might be available to Aster DM or in which Aster DM might engage or as to the underlying business decision of Aster DM to proceed with or effect the Transaction. Further, Aster DM will remain solely responsible for the commercial assumptions on which this opinion is based and for its decision to proceed with the Transaction.

Further, our opinion does not take into account any corporate actions of Aster DM after the date hereof, including payment of dividends. We are not expressing any opinion as to what the value of the Equity Shares actually will be when issued or the prices at which the Equity Shares will trade at any time, including following announcement or consummation of the Transaction. In addition, we express no opinion or recommendation as to how any shareholder, creditor or other person should vote or act in connection with the Transaction or any related matter. In addition, we are not expressing any view or opinion with respect to, and have relied, with the consent of Aster DM, upon the assessments of representatives of Aster DM regarding, legal, regulatory, accounting, tax and other matters relating to the Companies, any of their respective subsidiaries and/or associates, as applicable, or any other entity and the Transaction (including the contemplated benefits of the Transaction) as to which we understand that Aster DM obtained such advice as it deemed necessary from qualified professionals.

We have also assumed that all aspects of the Transaction and any other transaction contemplated in the Scheme would be in compliance with applicable laws and regulations, and we have issued this opinion on the understanding that we would not in any manner verify, or be responsible for ensuring, such compliance, including without limitation, compliance with the provisions of SEBI Regulations. Without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, we express no opinion and have assumed that the Transaction will not trigger obligation to make open offers under the Securities Exchange Board of India (Substantial Acquisition of Shares and Takeovers) Regulations, 2011, as amended and accordingly, we have not considered the consequences or impact on ICICI Securities, if any such offers are mandated, and we have also assumed that the Transaction will not result in any adverse effect on ICICI Securities or its business, whether under tax or other laws or under the terms of any license or approval.

We have acted as financial advisor to the Board of Directors of Aster DM to render this opinion and will receive a fee for our services, which will be paid upon the rendering of this opinion. In addition, Aster DM has agreed to reimburse our expenses (subject to certain restrictions) and indemnify us against certain liabilities arising out of our engagement.



We and our affiliates comprise a full-service securities firm and commercial bank engaged in securities, commodities and derivatives trading, foreign exchange and other brokerage activities, and principal investing as well as providing investment, corporate and private banking, asset and investment management, financing and financial advisory services and other commercial services and products to a wide range of companies, governments and individuals. In the ordinary course of our businesses, we and our affiliates may invest on a principal basis or on behalf of customers or manage funds that invest, make or hold long or short positions, finance positions or trade or otherwise effect transactions in equity, debt or other securities or financial instruments (including derivatives, bank loans or other obligations) of Aster DM and their respective subsidiaries, joint ventures, associates and/or affiliates.

We and our affiliates in the past have provided, currently are providing, and in the future may provide, investment banking, commercial banking and other financial services to Aster DM and its subsidiaries, joint ventures, associates and/or affiliates, and have received or in the future may receive compensation for the rendering of these services.

It is understood that this letter is for the benefit and use of the Board of Directors of Aster DM (in its capacity as such) in connection with and for purposes of its evaluation of the Transaction and is not rendered to or for the benefit of, and shall not confer rights or remedies upon, any person other than the Board of Directors of Aster DM. This opinion may not be disclosed, referred to, or communicated (in whole or in part) to any third party, nor shall any public reference to us be made, for any purpose whatsoever except (i) with our prior written consent in each instance; (ii) as required to be disclosed by Aster DM to the Stock Exchanges pursuant to applicable laws and may be disclosed on the website of Aster DM and the Stock Exchanges to the extent required under applicable laws and further may also be made a part of the explanatory statement to be circulated to the shareholders and/or creditors of Aster DM; and (iii) as required to be disclosed to relevant judicial, regulatory or government authorities, in each case only as may be required by applicable laws. Our opinion is necessarily based on financial, economic, monetary, market and other conditions and circumstances as in effect on, and the information made available to us as of, the date hereof. It should be understood that subsequent developments may affect this opinion, and we do not have any obligation to update, revise, or reaffirm this opinion



## **RATIONALE & CONCLUSION**

In the circumstances, having regard to all relevant factors and on the basis of information and explanations given to us, we are of the opinion on the date hereof, that the Share Exchange Ratio as stated above and recommended by the Registered Valuers is fair.

Yours faithfully,

**For ICICI Securities Limited,**



Raghavan Subramanian

Head – Structured Products

ICICI Securities, Mumbai

Date: November 29, 2024