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31 .01.2022

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சுகாதாரம் அமைச்சு  
Ministry of Health

General Circular Letter No: ~~02-09-2022~~  
01-06/2022

All Provincial Directors of Health Services,  
All Regional Directors of Health Services,  
All Heads of Institutions,  
Medical Officers of Health (MOOH)

### World Cancer Day – 4<sup>th</sup> February 2022

The global burden of cancer incidence and mortality is rapidly rising. There were 19.3 million new cancer cases and 10 million deaths due to cancer worldwide, in 2020 (GLOBOCAN 2020). Over the next twenty years cancer incidence is projected to increase to over 28.5 million. Urgent action must be taken to close the gaps in cancer care as well as raise awareness about the disease and to develop practical strategies to address the cancer burden.

In the Sri Lankan context, neoplasms are the second leading cause of death (Registrar General Department). According to the National Cancer Registry 2019, there were 31,848 incident cases with the overall crude incidence rate of 146 per 100,000 population and the age standardized incidence rate (ASR) of 128.9 per 100,000 population.

Cancer affects everyone in different ways and everyone has the power to take actions to reduce the impact of the disease on individuals, families, and communities. Every year, 4th of February is declared as the “**World Cancer Day**” to save millions of preventable deaths by reducing the gaps in cancer care and raising awareness and education on the disease and convincing governments and individuals across the world to act towards one common goal. The theme for the campaign in 2022 is ‘**Close the care gap; Realizing the problem**’. During the “World Cancer Day, this year, our primary aim is to identify the cancer care gaps and take action accordingly.

Acting in line with the theme for this year, the National Cancer Control Programme (NCCP) recommends to all healthcare institutions (MOOH, Hospitals etc.) to conduct the following activities at district and institutional levels, within the month of February 2022:

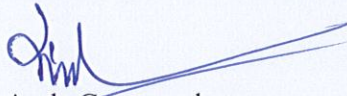
1. Contribute to the survey conducted by the NCCP to identify the various gaps that may be encountered along the pathway of cancer care. The MOOH are expected to identify five patients with cancer, and complete the survey form through field officers.
2. Conduct an in-service training programme on cancer prevention and control.
3. Conduct a community awareness programme on cancer prevention and control

The MO NCD, MO MCH, and the RDS are supposed to coordinate the above activities within the districts. The IEC material distributed by the National Cancer Control Programme, including the Flashcards and the Training of Trainer Manual could be made use of when conducting the awareness and training programmes.

Please send the completed survey forms and a report summarizing the activities conducted in the district to the Director/ National Cancer Control Programme.

I appreciate your leadership and active participation for the activities during the month of February to commemorate "World Cancer Day 2022". Please circulate the content of this circular among all relevant officers in your institution.

For further information, contact Director, National Cancer Control Programme through Tel. 0112368627 or email- nccpmohsl@gmail.com

  
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Director General of Health Services  
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4. Secretary/Health – Ministry of Health
5. All Provincial Health Secretaries
6. Additional Secretary (Public Health Services) - Ministry of Health
7. Additional Secretary (Medical Services) - Ministry of Health
8. DDG- MS I & II, PHS I & II, Planning, ET & R, Dental Services and LS- Ministry of Health
9. Director-National Cancer Control Programme
10. Director – Family Health Bureau
11. Director – Non-communicable Diseases
12. Director – Health Education Bureau
13. Director- Primary Health Care
14. Director – Private Health Sector Development
15. Director – National Institute of Health Sciences
16. Director- Estate and Urban Health