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தேசிய புற்றுநோய்க் கட்டுப்பாட்டு நிகழ்ச்சித் திட்டம்  
National Cancer Control Programme



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சுகாதார அமைச்சகம்  
Ministry of Health

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18/11/2020

Director

**Establishment of Breast Clinic facilities at island wide secondary and tertiary care hospitals**

Breast cancer is the most common cancer among women in Sri Lanka. According to estimates, in the year 2018, 24% of all newly diagnosed cancers among women are breast cancers. Around 3000 – 3500 women are diagnosed with breast cancer annually in Sri Lanka.

According to the decision taken at 'National Advisory Committee on Prevention and Control of Cancers' on 19th June 2020, Secretary Health has instructed all National Hospitals, Provincial General Hospitals and District General Hospitals in Sri Lanka to Establish 'Breast Clinics' to facilitate timely diagnosis and treatment of breast cancers.

Letter from secretary health requesting to initiate 'Breast Clinics', the basic requirement for 'Breast Clinics' in Sri Lanka and list of hospitals identified to establish 'Breast Clinics' in the country is attached.

Considering the instructions given by Secretary Health, National Cancer Control Programme, request heads of the relevant institutions to take necessary actions to initiate 'Breast Clinics' with the involvement of relevant consultants, medical officers and nurses on or before 15th of December 2020. The institutions with already functioning 'Breast Clinics' may strengthen the clinic activities for an enhanced service provision.

Please contact, Dr Muzrif Munas, Consultant Community Physician (0773405940, [muzrifmm@gmail.com](mailto:muzrifmm@gmail.com)), National Cancer Control Programme for further information and clarification.

Thank You

Dr. Janaki Vidanapathirana

Act. Director- National Cancer Control Programme



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Ministry of Health

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Director

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**Establishment of Breast Clinic facilities at island wide Secondary and Tertiary care hospitals**

The National Advisory Committee on Prevention and Control of Cancers which was held on 19<sup>th</sup> June 2020 chaired by the Secretary of Health has unanimously decided to establish "Breast Clinics" at all National hospitals, Teaching hospitals, Provincial General Hospitals and District General Hospitals in Sri Lanka.

Breast cancer was the commonest cancer among females in 2018 consisting 24% of all female cancers. The imPACT review held in November 2019 highlighted that the time taken to diagnose and treat from the onset of symptoms is high within the existing health system. Therefore, take necessary steps to initiate breast clinics in your respective hospitals with the participation of relevant consultants, medical officers and nursing officers before 15<sup>th</sup> November 2020 and inform the National Cancer control Programme. Breast clinics must be established according to the annexed basic requirements.

Contact Director – National Cancer Control Programme (011-2368627) for further information and clarifications. Your fullest cooperation for this activity is expected.

Thank you.

**Dr. S.H. Munasinghe**

Secretary

Cc:

1. Dr. (Mrs). T. L. C. Somatunga, Addl. Secretary – Public Health Services
2. Dr. S. Sridharan, Director General of Health Services (Covering up)
3. Dr. Champika Wickramasinghe, Deputy Director General – Non-Communicable Diseases
4. Dr. Janaki Vidanapathirana, Acting Director – National Cancer Control Programme: Coordinate with the relevant Hospital

## Basic requirements for Breast Clinics in Sri Lanka

**Goal** – To make a high-quality specialist Breast Service available for all women in Sri Lanka

**Objective** – To perform comprehensive triple therapy assessment at ‘one stop clinic’

Breast clinic is a place where breast cancer and other breast diseases are diagnosed and treated. The clinic functions as a walk-in clinic without any referrals. Please note that the patients with breast diseases can directly come to breast clinic and utilize its services.

**Administration** – The clinic staff is under the administration of the director of the particular hospital/ health institution. Technical expertise for the establishment and maintenance of breast clinic is provided by the National Cancer Control Programme.

Breast Clinics should provide care for breast diseases at all stages from screening to the care of advanced disease.

- ❖ All Breast Clinics must be separated and not held as part of a general surgical clinic
- ❖ A designated place to be given by the head of institution with a name board in all three official languages

The head of the institution should identify key personnel to conduct this clinic at the hospital management committee. The institutional head should coordinate following consultants and their respective departments to facilitate the triple assessment.

- Designated onco-surgeon OR general surgeon who is interested in breast diseases
- Designated radiology unit with a consultant Radiologist, and at least one female radiographer
- Digital mammography (preferably) OR Analog mammography, AND/OR ultrasound scan machine
- Consultant Histo-pathologist with facilities to conduct Fine Needle Aspiration Cytology (FNAC) AND/OR core biopsy facilities

### Frequency –

The frequency of the clinic should be decided with the consensus of hospital director, and the treating specialist. Following guideline should be used as a guide when deciding the frequency of the breast clinic.

- Minimum of one clinic fortnight for new patients  
AND
- Minimum of one clinic fortnight for follow up patients, OR combination of the two

**Staff –**

- Consultant surgeon with special interest on breast disease OR Consultant Onco-surgeon
- Medical officers – At least one (1) medical officer working at Onco-surgical unit/ oncology unit OR surgical unit of that relevant consultant
- Nursing officers – Minimum of two (2) allocated by the head of the institution
- Health attendant - two members allocated by the head of institution

**Services provided –**

- Registration (two separate registries for new patients and follow up patients with one unique health identification number)
- Health education and risk assessment
- Demonstration of self-breast examination
- Consultation with doctor
- Facilities for triple assessment
- Follow up after surgery, chemotherapy, radiotherapy, etc. (if necessary)

The National Cancer Control Programme will conduct training sessions and workshops on management of breast diseases including breast cancer in due course.

One nursing officer is responsible to send a return to NCCP monthly summarizing all activities carried out at the clinic for that particular month. NCCP will provide the format of the return document to all breast clinics.

The staff from NCCP will visit the clinic occasionally and will assess the clinic proceedings' including clinical audits.

**Annex II**

**Hospitals identified to establish Breast clinics in the country**

<b>Province</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>Name of the hospital</b>
<b>Western</b>	Colombo	NHSL
		CSTH
		TH - Sri Jayawardana pura
		DGH – Avissawella
	Gampaha	TH – Colombo North
		DGH – Gampaha
		DGH -- Negambo
	Kalutara	DGH – Kalutara
	<b>Southern</b>	Galle
Matara		DGH – Matara
Hambanthota		DGH – Hambanthota
<b>Uva</b>	Badulla	DGH – Badulla
	Monaragala	DGH – Monaragala
<b>Sabaragamuwa</b>	Ratnapura	TH – Ratnapura
		DGH – Embilipitiya
	Kegalle	DGH -- Kegalle
<b>North western</b>	Kurunegala	TH – Kurunegala
	Puttalam	DGH – Chilaw
<b>North Central</b>	Anuradhapura	TH – Anuradhapura
	Polonnaruwa	DGH – Polonnaruwa
<b>Northern</b>	Jaffna	TH -- Jaffna
	Vavuniya	DGH -- Vavuniya
	Mullaitivu	DGH -- Mullaitivu
	Mannar	DGH – Mannar
	Kilinochchi	DGH – Kilinochchi
<b>Eastern</b>	Batticaloa	TH – Baticaloa
	Trincomalee	DGH - Trincomalee
	Ampara	DGH – Ampara
	Kalmunai	BH – Kalmunai North
<b>Central</b>	Kandy	TH - Kandy
		TH – Peradeniya
		DGH – Nawalapitiya
	Matale	DGH – Matale
	Nuwara Eliya	DGH – Nuwara Eliya