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சுவசிரிபாய  
SUWASIRIPAYA

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Your No. : )

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திகதி ) 24/04/2012  
Date )

## සෞඛ්‍ය අමාත්‍යාංශය சுகாதார அமைச்சு Ministry of Health

General Circular No : 01/22/2012

All Provincial Directors of Health Services

All District Directors of Health Services

All Directors / MS of Teaching, Provincial General, District General & Base Hospitals

Consultant Histopathologists

Consultant Haematologists

Heads of Department of Pathology, Faculties of Medicine/ Medical Sciences/ Dental Sciences / Allied Health Sciences

Directors of Private Hospitals / Pathology Laboratories

President, College of Pathologists / College of Haematologists / College of Dentistry & Stomatology

### Strengthening Pathology Laboratory Based Surveillance of Cancers in Sri Lanka

Surveillance of cancer is an essential strategy for planning, implementation and evaluation of evidence based cancer control programmes. The National Cancer Control Programme (NCCP) has been monitoring trends of cancers in Sri Lanka since 1985 and has been publishing the national cancer registry.

For the surveillance of cancers, cancer incidence data are extracted from cancer patients clinic files maintained at the cancer treatment centres in Sri Lanka. From year 2000 onwards, newly diagnosed cancers are reported from pathology laboratories throughout the country to supplement the cancer incidence data from both government & private sector hospitals & pathology laboratories. Consultant histopathologists, haematologists & directors of the hospitals supported this activity for more than 10 years. Pathology laboratory based cancer surveillance mechanism needs to be further strengthened to improve coverage & comprehensiveness.

Following information will be helpful in strengthening pathology laboratory based cancer surveillance. The modified format of Cancer Return Form 1 (Annex 1) which is used for Pathology Laboratory Based Cancer Surveillance contains following variables as shown in table 1.1.

**Table 1.1 Variables of the Cancer Return Form 1**

Variable	Remark
<b>Patient details</b> (Patient identification details is essential in duplicate entry checking at the Cancer Registry Database)	
Name	Full Name
Address	Patients' usual residential address
Age	In years
Sex	Male/ Female
NIC No.	National Identity Card Number
BHT No.	Bed Head Ticket No.
<b>Tumour details</b>	
Site of Cancer (Topography)	Anatomical site with subsite
Incidence date	Date of the first pathology report (the date of biopsy done)
Primary / Secondary/ Unknown	Primary site / Metastatic site/ not known
Histology / Cytology (Morphology)	Exact histology / cytology type with behavior & differentiation
<b>History of Previous Malignancy</b>	
Yes/No	
Diagnosis	

The Medical Officer, Nursing Officer or Medical Laboratory Technician can extract these data from individual histology/cytology reports maintained at the Histopathology or Haematology laboratories. Each filled form needs to be signed by the officer – in - charge of this activity and certified by the Consultant Histopathologist / Consultant Haematologist.

Since personal identification data is included, confidentiality of data has to be compulsorily maintained throughout the process. National Cancer Control Programme would not release personal identification details in the reports generated using these data.

The filled forms have to be posted to the following address monthly. It will be appreciated if the filled forms of the previous month are sent before the end of next month.

**National Cancer Control Programme**  
**555/5, Ground Floor**  
**Public Health Complex**  
**Elvitigala Mawatha**  
**Narahenpita**  
**Colombo 5**

Further information in this regard could be obtained from Director, National Cancer Control Programme through tel.no 011 - 2368627 or e mail [nccpsl@yahoo.com](mailto:nccpsl@yahoo.com) .



**Dr.U.A. Mendis**

Director General of Health Services  
Ministry of Health

**Dr. U. A. Mendis**  
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Copies

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4. Secretary- Ministry of Health
5. Additional Secretary – Ministry of Health
6. All Provincial Health Secretaries
7. Director - National Cancer Control Programme