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சுவசிரிபாய
SUWASIRIPAYA

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සෞඛ්‍ය අමාත්‍යාංශය சுகாதார அமைச்சு Ministry of Health

General Circular Number: 01-35/2024

Deputy Director General (NHSL)
Deputy Director General (MS I and II)
All Provincial Directors of Health Services
All Directors of National Hospitals (Kandy and Galle)
All Regional Directors of Health Services
All Directors of Teaching /Provincial/Specialized and District General Hospitals
All Medical Superintendents of Base Hospitals and all MOICs of the hospitals

Mandatory Implementation of the Modified Obstetric Early Warning Signs Chart in All Obstetrics and Gynaecology Units, and Other Relevant Clinical Settings Across Sri Lanka.

Introduction

The Ministry of Health recognising that severe maternal morbidity and mortality are often preventable. The Modified Early Warning System [MEWS] tracks critical physiological parameters, triggering timely interventions once a predetermined threshold is reached, thus reducing preventable maternal complications and deaths.

Despite the issuance of Circular HQSH/01/2023 dated 13/11/2023 by the Director General of Health Services, recent reports from maternal mortality and morbidity surveillance underscore that delays in recognising, diagnosing, initiating treatment, and escalating management in obstetric emergencies remain significant contributors to preventable maternal deaths.

Hence, the Ministry of Health hereby provides the following directive for the mandatory implementation of the Modified Obstetric Early Warning Signs Chart (H: PH1237) in all Obstetrics and Gynaecology units and other relevant clinical settings across the country.

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Obligations of Healthcare Providers:

1. Each consultant Obstetrician and Gynaecologist, or in their absence, the Heads of Healthcare institutions, are hereby mandated to:
 - a. Ensure the complete and effective implementation of the Modified Obstetric Early Warning Signs Chart in their respective Obstetrics and Gynaecology units and other relevant clinical settings.
 - b. Conduct monthly clinical audits on the implementation and utilisation of the Modified Obstetric Early Warning Signs Chart. These audits must be facilitated through the Quality Management Unit or any other designated body within the institution.
2. The Provincial and Regional Directors of Health Services are hereby instructed to supervise, monitor, and enforce compliance with this directive within their jurisdictions/areas under the guise of the Director General of Health Services where necessary.

Audit and Reporting Mechanism:

The Quality Secretariat of the Ministry of Health is mandated to compile audit summaries on the implementation of the Modified Obstetric Early Warning Signs Chart. These summaries must be presented at every Hospital Directors' meeting conducted by the Ministry of Health under the direct supervision of the Director General of Health Services.

Enforcement and Compliance:

This directive is issued with immediate effect. Non-compliance or violations of this directive will result in appropriate disciplinary or administrative actions in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Ministry of Health. Compliance will be strictly monitored, and institutions found in breach will be subject to further investigation as deemed necessary by the Ministry.

The Ministry of Health emphasises the critical importance of this directive in safeguarding maternal health and calls for immediate compliance to ensure the safety and well-being of all patients under obstetric care.


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CC:

1. Director General of Health Services- f.i and supervision
2. Deputy Director General (PHS I and II)- f.i
3. Deputy Director General (Investigations)-f.i
4. Director, Patient Safety and Quality- f.i & n.a
5. President, Sri Lanka College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists- f.i & n.a
6. Chief Legal Officer- f.i