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சுவசிரிபாய
SUWASIRIPAYA

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சுகாதார அமைச்சு
Ministry of Health

General circular No: 02-143/2014

All Provincial Secretaries

Provincial/Deputy Provincial Health Secretaries

Directors of Teaching Hospitals

Medical Superintendents of Provincial Hospitals and Heads of Institutions

National Week for Poison Prevention – From 10th November to 16th 2014

Sri Lanka's Toxicology and National Poisons Information Centre is conducting poison prevention week annually from 2007, thereby educating the public and all persons having connections with the Health Sector on Prevention and treatments of poisoning.

In the last few years the number of hospital admissions and deaths due to non – communicable diseases has increased compared to communicable diseases. According to the current scientific facts, it seems very clear that there is a tendency to cause non – communicable diseases through the environmental poisons. Diabetes, high blood pressure, obesity, cancers and kidney diseases are main among the non – communicable diseases. According to the statistics of the medical statistics division of the Ministry of Health 78,225 persons and 98,345 persons respectively have been hospitalized due to diabetes and high-blood pressure and the number of deaths are 675 and 268 in 2012. About 22,000 kidney patients have been reported in the North Central Province up to now. Poisonous chemicals deposited in human bodies through agro-chemicals added to the environment and modern consumption patterns show an increase.

In this background correct identification of the relationship among the environmental poisons, human behavior patterns and nutrition and correct communication of the updated scientific facts are vitally

important in respects of prevention of non – communicable diseases. It is intended to communicate aforesaid scientific knowledge to the public through the National Poisons Prevention Week of this year. “Environmental Poisons and non – communicable diseases” is the theme of the poison prevention week this year.

This circular is issued with the objective of achieving the above objective in Sri Lanka where the population is educable and the systems of Health Service Institutions have the necessary facilities to treat and educate people.

Duration – From 10 November 2014 to 16 November

Theme – “Environmental Poisons and Non – Communicable Diseases”

Objectives

1. Minimizing environmental poisonous material which deposit in the body, minimizing non communicable diseases and the number of deaths caused by such diseases.
2. Making aware all the parties of the role of the National Toxicology and Poison Information Centre and how to get its contribution effectively to achieve the above project.
3. Deciding on a plan and implementing it jointly with all relevant parties for the prevention activities
4. Educating the public about updated scientific Knowledge on non-communicable diseases which are timely important and how to minimize non communicable diseases.

Proposed Activities during Poison Prevention Week,

1. Organizing Education programmes and Action Plan within the institution and at community level in view to educate staff and community. E.g.: educational lectures, educational exhibitions, educational walks.
2. Get the representatives of electronic and written media joined for the above programme with the objective of educating the general public on obtaining the services of the National Toxicology and Poison information Centre and directing the public to obtain the services of the National Toxicology and Poison Information Centre.
3. Obtaining ideas and suggestions from various representatives who participate in and sponsor the programme regarding the activities proposed to be implemented by the national Centre.
4. Giving instructions for the programmes to educate the public formally island wide as mentioned in the said circular, minimizing the harm to environment and public health.
5. Displaying a notice within the institution as applicable, during the national week for poison prevention in order to educate the staff.

6. Conducting educational exhibitions, workshops and lectures.

A detailed report on the activities implemented for the poison prevention week should be submitted to the Director/NCD by the Health Education Officer after completion of such activities.

At least one programme should be conducted in this regard at MOH, DMOH, General Hospital and Teaching Hospital level. Further Information and Technical applications in this regard can be obtained from the National Toxicology and Poison Information Centre of the National Hospital of Sri Lanka by which this programme is coordinated via TP 011- 2686143/011-269141 extension 2430.

You are hereby requested to circulate this circular among all the staff and ensure that the activities mentioned in the circular are carried out. Leaflets and posters prepared including theoretical facts under this theme could be obtained from National Poison Information Centre. According to the requirement, relevant materials could be sent to you by post. The report of activities conducted in your respective area should be forwarded to the National Toxicology and Poison Information Centre before the 28th of December 2014.



Dr. P. G. Mahipala

Director General of Health Services

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