

General Circular No: 02-169/2013

My No: Director / AMC / Circular / 2013

Department of Health Services

“Suwasiripaya”

No: 385,

Rev. Baddegama Wimalawansa Tero Mawatha,

Colombo 10

2013. 11. 05

All Provincial Directors of Health Services

All Regional Directors of Health Services

All Hospital Directors/Medical Superintendents

All District Medical Officers/MOIC

All Regional Epidemiologists

All Medical Officers of Health

Malaria Preparedness in line with the Commonwealth Head of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Sri Lanka - November 2013

Around twenty-five countries of the Commonwealth group have been identified by the World Health Organization as malaria endemic countries. Delegates from these countries will be visiting Sri Lanka to attend events related to CHOGM. Therefore, it is important that all health staff attending these delegates is well aware of the course of action to be followed if malaria is suspected among any of the delegates. This is especially important in the context that Sri Lanka is near elimination level of malaria and currently only very rarely clinicians are encountering with malaria patients. Since October 2012, no indigenous malaria cases were reported in Sri Lanka. However, there were 80 imported malaria cases diagnosed within this year. Therefore, being a rare presentation, it is very likely that some cases could be missed to diagnose timely, unless clinicians maintain a high level of alertness. Missing or being late to diagnose may endanger the health of the patient as well as may risk new malaria outbreaks in the country.

All the health care providers in the government and private sectors who will be attending CHOGM delegates should be prepared to encounter this situation. The following guidelines should be thoroughly followed.

1. All the patients who are suspected as malaria should be tested for malaria irrespective of the symptoms.
2. Confirmation of malaria should be carried out by microscopy (peripheral blood smear to detect *Plasmodium* parasite) or using RDT (Rapid Diagnosis Test kit- to detect Plasmodium Antigen). If your institution has no laboratory facilities for malaria diagnostics, the Anti-Malaria Campaign (AMC) Headquarters should be promptly informed in order to organize investigations.

3. Immediately after the diagnosis is made, all malaria patients should be promptly notified to the AMC Head Quarters and Regional Malaria Officer if available in the relevant area. Please see Annex for contact details.
4. Treatment of suspected malaria infection without laboratory confirmation is to be avoided as much as possible and may be undertaken only if the clinical condition of the patient warrants such an intervention. In the event of such treatment is undertaken, it is mandatory to complete the full course of treatment by the patient. It is however necessary to notify the AMC Head Quarters and collect a blood smear and blood for PCR from such patients before treatment commences.
5. All malaria positive patients should be treated according to the National Treatment Guidelines.
6. Necessary anti-malaria drugs are available at the AMC Head Quarters and at Regional Malaria Offices. Once the diagnosis is made, these drugs will be immediately dispatched to the institution where the patient is being treated (provided that anti-malarial drugs are not available at those institutions).
7. For any further clarifications; please contact Anti Malaria Campaign –Head Quarters. Hotline will be in operation for twenty-four hours.

Telephone: 0117626626 (Hotline) 0112588408, 0112368173/4, 0113443203/4

Fax: 0112368360

E-mail: antimalariacampaignsl@gmail.com

Web: www.malariacampaign.gov.lk,

Please ensure that these instructions are followed up in all institutions. Your contribution in this regard is extremely important in order to provide proper healthcare to CHOGM delegates and also to reach the country goal: elimination of malaria from Sri Lanka by 2014.



Dr. Palitha Mahipala
Director General of Health Services

cc: Deputy Director General (PHS) I
Deputy Director General (MS) I
Chief Epidemiologist
All Regional Malaria Officers

Dr. P. G. Mahipala
Director General of Health Services
Ministry of Health,
385, "Suwasiripaya",
Rev. Baddegama Wimalawansa Thero Mawatha,
Colombo 10.

Annex: Telephone numbers related to Anti Malaria Campaign

Anti-Malaria Campaign Head Quarters

Hotline	0117626626	
General	0112588408, 0112368173, 0112368174	
Director (Acting) – Dr Sudath Samaraweera		0777903407
Consultant Community Physician – Dr Dewanee Ranaweera		0714393409
Fax	011-2368360	
Email	antimalariacampaignsl@gmail.com	
Web	www.malariacampaign.gov.lk	

Regional Malaria Offices

District	Telephone No	District	Telephone No
Ampara	063-2223464	Maho	037-2275254
Anuradhapura	025-2221844	Mannar	023-2222326
Baddula	055-2226018	Matale	066-2222295
Batticaloa	0652222931	Monaragala	055-2276698
Hambantota	047-2220135	Mullativu	024-3248341
Jaffna	021-2227924	Polonnaruwa	027-2226018
Kalmunai	067-2220206	Puttalam	032-2265319
Kandy	081-2210687	Ratnapura	047-2230301
Kegalle	035-2222549	Tricomalee	026-2222584
Kilinochchi	024-3247236	Vavuniya	024-2222954
Kurunegala	037-2222193		