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சுவசிரிபாய

SUWASIRIPAYA

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சுகாதாரப் போசணை மற்றும் சுதேச வைத்திய அமைச்சு
Ministry of Health Nutrition & Indigenous Medicine

01-32 / 2019

All Chief Secretaries / Provincial Health Secretaries

Provincial / Regional Directors of Health Services

Directors of Teaching Hospitals/ Provincial General Hospitals/ District General Hospitals

Medical Superintendents of Base Hospitals and

Heads of Institutions,

National Poison Prevention Week – From 14th to 20th October 2019

1. National Poisons Information Center has been annually conducting the poison prevention week since 2007. This National health programme has been educating general public and health staff regarding prevention of poisoning and the treatment available for poisonous agents.
2. According to the medical statistics published from 2000 to 2016, the trends of admissions due to pesticides poisoning has reduced and the poisoning due to pharmaceuticals has significantly increased in state hospitals in Sri Lanka and paracetamol is the most common pharmaceutical agent. Abuse of pharmaceutical drugs and people addicted to one or more of these substances is becoming a significant problem in Sri Lanka. diazepam, tramadol, amphetamine, methamphetamine and caffeine are the commonly used sedatives in this regard. According to the data and incident reported to the National Dangerous Drug Control Board in 2017, 2706 drug addicted people were treated and rehabilitated. This was a 15% increase when compared to 2016.
3. In order to provide scientific knowledge to the public in this matter, National Poisons Information Centre has decided to conduct and coordinate the National Poisons Prevention Week under the theme of “Prevent misuse of Pharmaceuticals & Dangerous Drugs”.

4. This circular is issued with the objective of educating health staff and the general public about the misuse of pharmaceuticals and dangerous drugs, through the activities conducted by the health care institutions of the country.

Duration	-	From 14th to 20th October 2019
Theme	-	“Prevent misuse of Pharmaceuticals & Dangerous Drugs”
Objective	-	To minimize and prevent abuse of pharmaceuticals and dangerous drugs

5. Proposed activities during Poison Prevention Week

1. Preparing an action plan to educate the staff and General public at institutional and public level. ex. Health educational lectures , Exhibitions and distribution of handouts and posters
 2. Conducting island wide programmes in order to educate the General public according to the circular.
 3. Suitable banners should be, displayed in all institutions during the Poison Prevention Week
- At least one programme should be conducted in this regard at MOH, DMOH, General Hospital and Teaching Hospital level.
 - Further information and technical advisory in this regard can be obtained from the National Poisons Information Centre of the National Hospital of Sri Lanka by which this programme is coordinated through, Tel. No. 011-2686143 / 011-2691111 and Ext. 2430 and Email: infotoxlanka@gmail.com.
 - Information relevant to the currant theme can be download from website <http://www.toxbaselanka.info> of the National Poisons Information Centre.
 - You are hereby requested to circulate this circular among all the staff and ensure that the activities mentioned in the circular are carried out.
6. A summary report of the activities implemented in your institution for the poison prevention week should be submitted to the Director/NCD Ministry of Health and National Poisons Information Centre by the Health Education Officer after completion of such activities on or before **30th November 2019**.


Secretary
Ministry of Health & Nutrition & Indigenous Medicine

Wasantha Perera
Secretary
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