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Ministry of Health, Nutrition & Indigenous Medicine

General Circular No : 01 - 40 / 2018

All Provincial Secretaries,
All Provincial Director of Health Services,
All Regional Director of Health Services,
All Head of the Specialized Projects,
Directors of All Teaching Hospital,
Directors of All Provincial General Hospital,
Directors / Medical Superintendent of All District General Hospital,
All Head of the Institution.

National Poison Prevention Week – From 10th to 16th September 2018

National Poison 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.

According to the National data published in 2016, there has been significant rise in house hold poisoning in Sri Lanka. In 2016, number of cases of poison related admissions to state hospitals due to non-pharmaceutical, household poisoning was 42095. It is very clear that this figure is more than the pharmaceutical poisoning (23,807) and pesticides poisoning (12,629) respectively.

Household poisoning and pesticide poisoning is totally preventable. This can be achieved by improving awareness and vigilance by the community. Therefore it is important to provide current, accurate and updated scientific information to the public.

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 "Prevention of Household and pesticide poisoning".


This circular is issued with the objective of educating parents and adults on prevention of household poisoning especially among children, and also to properly educate the farming community on danger of pesticides.

Duration	-	From 10th to 16th September 2018
Theme	-	“Prevention of Household and Pesticide Poisoning”
Objective	-	To minimize and prevention of household and pesticide poisoning

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: infotox.lanka@gmail.com.
 - Leaflets and posters displaying information relevant to the currant theme could be obtained from National Poison Information Centre. As per request relevant material could be posted and theoretical facts, leaflets and posters can be download from the facebook account (www.facebook.com/NTPICSL) and website <http://www.toxbaselanka.info> of the National Poisons Information Centre.
 - In addition a DVD has been released on educational material in this regard to improve the awareness of general public and the health professionals. The DVD is also available at 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.

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 31st October 2018.


B. G. S. Gunathilaka
Secretary
Ministry of Health & Nutrition & Indigenous Medicine

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