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General Circular: 01-18/2023

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 – 11th - 17th OF SEPTEMBER 2023 "Prevent Unintentional Poisoning in Sri Lanka"

The National Poison Information Centre, in collaboration with the Directorate of Non-Communicable Disease, the National Focal Point for Injury Prevention in the Ministry of Health, has been conducting the National Poison Prevention Week annually over the past few years. This program aim to create awareness about the prevention and management of poisoning among the general public and health staff. This initiative follows a decision taken in 2007 by National Committee for Prevention of Injury.

Considering this, the National Poison Information Centre has decided to conduct the National Poison Prevention Week 2023 to improve public awareness through health institutions and minimize hospital admissions and deaths due to poisoning.

The theme for the National Poison Prevention Week 2023 is "**Prevent Unintentional Poisoning in Sri Lanka.**"

Scheduled dates: 11th to 17th September 2023

Objectives:

1. To minimize hospitalizations and deaths due to poisoning.
2. To educate the general public on methods of prevention of unintentional poisoning.

Proposed activities:

Preparation of activities to educate the staff and the general public at the institutional level through this

1. Conducting lectures and exhibitions.
2. Distribution of handouts and posters.

You may seek further information and technical support from the National Poisons Information Centre which is coordinating this activity and this is located at the National Hospital of Sri Lanka/Colombo (Tel: 011-2686143/011-2691111 ext. 2430).

Please bring this circular for attention to all the staff members and ensure that the above measures are implemented. At least one relevant program is expected to be carried out by each health institution.

A report of the activities conducted in your respective institution should be forwarded to the Director/Non-Communicable Disease, Ministry of Health, before 30th November 2023.

Thank you for your support and cooperation in making the National Poison Prevention Week 2023 a success.



Dr. Asela Gunawardena
Director General of Health Services

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