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சுவசிரிபாய

SUWASIRIPAYA

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எனது இல) NCCP/GOSL/29/2018
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திகதி) 21.07.2018
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சுகாதாரம், போசணை மற்றும் சுதேச வைத்திய அமைச்சு
Ministry of Health, Nutrition & Indigenous Medicine

Circular letter No: 02-176/2018

All Provincial Directors of Health Services
All Regional Directors of Health Services
All Heads of Institutions including Medical Officers of Health

National Symposium on Best Practices for Cancer Prevention and Control 2018

Cancer is one of the major non-communicable diseases (NCD) and a leading cause of NCD deaths in the world as well as in Sri Lanka. According to National Cancer Registry of Sri Lanka, the overall crude incidence rate of cancer is gradually increasing and has reached 82.1 per 100,000 population in 2010. The five leading cancer sites among females were breast, uterine cervix, thyroid gland, ovary and oral (lip, oral cavity and pharynx). Among males, the top five cancer sites were oral (lip, oral cavity and pharynx), 'trachea, bronchus and lungs', oesophagus, 'colon and rectum' and prostate gland.

Most of these cancers can either be prevented or treated if detected early. It is known that one third of all cancers can be prevented by healthy life style behaviours and healthy environment. Another one third can be cured by early detection and prompt treatment. The major modifiable risk factors associated with cancer are tobacco use, harmful use of alcohol, unhealthy diets and physical inactivity.

Palliative care is an important aspect of care that should be provided to a patient diagnosed with a cancer, in order to improve his or her quality of life. Though it is not widely established in Sri Lanka yet, measures are being taken to popularize this service among health care providers and care takers of cancer patients.

Field health staff plays a vital role in prevention and early detection of cancers. They are expected to carry out activities to improve the knowledge and awareness among the general public on major modifiable risk factors of cancer. They are further expected to implement interventions to promote behavioural changes to eliminate or reduce cancer related risk factors. Institutional staff also contributes immensely by conducting numerous activities for cancer prevention and early detection. On the other hand, palliative care services are currently provided primarily by institutional staff. However, it is expected to extend the services to field level in the future.

National Cancer Control Programme (NCCP), the national level focal point within the Ministry of Health, Nutrition and Indigenous Medicine Sri Lanka, for prevention and control of cancers in the country, has decided to formally appreciate the hard work carried out by the healthcare staff for prevention and control of cancers and curative service delivery including provision of palliative care in their respective areas. It is also expected that such an appreciation would further motivate all concerned to carry out similar activities in future.

Therefore, the NCCP has decided to conduct an annual best practices symposium on cancer prevention, control and curative service delivery including palliative care for field and institutional health staff. The first symposium will be held in 2018 and it is expected to select individuals/institutions who have conducted innovative and novel activities related to above topic in the year 2017 and appreciate them.

In addition, recognizing the importance of cancer surveillance for the decision making process in relation to cancer control and prevention, the NCCP hopes to appreciate the contribution of all relevant categories for cancer surveillance activities also.

Therefore, the best performances of following categories in cancer surveillance will also be appreciated at the symposium:

- Surveillance activities carried out at the Cancer Treatment Centres
- Surveillance activities carried out in Pathology laboratories
- Death Registration activities conducted by the Marriage and Death Registrars.
- Services of the Medical Record Officers

We hope this endeavor will provide a motivation for all health staff and more innovative practices will be introduced in the successive years.

GUIDELINES FOR SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS

Objective of the symposium:

To identify innovative and novel practices related to cancer prevention, early detection, curative service delivery including provision of palliative care by the health staff and cancer surveillance by health and related non-health staff and appreciate their contribution.

Categories of evaluation:

The practices will be evaluated under a two main categories. They are,

- Individual/ Group category: A proposal of an innovative practice initiated by an individual or a group of individuals can be submitted under this category
- Institutional category: A proposal of an innovative practice carried out by MOH offices/ RDHS Offices/ PDHS Offices/ Hospitals or any other health institution can be submitted under this category

A given activity can be submitted only under one of those categories:

Eligibility Criteria:

- The activity should be carried out by an officer/officers/staff in a government healthcare institution during the year 2017.
- The officer(s)/ staff may belong to either preventive sector or the curative sector.
- In case of cancer surveillance, in addition to above categories, Marriage and Death Registrars are eligible to apply.
- The objective of the activity/ project should be health promotion, prevention &/or early detection of cancers or provision curative services including palliative care for cancer patients or cancer incidence notification.
- The activity/ project should either be a novel practice (conducted in addition to routine activities) or a routine activity conducted in an innovative manner or with a greater commitment that brings overall cancer control activities to a higher position.
- An officer/institution can submit more than one proposal. However each activity should be submitted as a separate proposal.

Criteria for selection of best practices:

- Three best practices will be selected under each category at national level. Up to three best practices under each category will also be selected from each province.
- In addition, merit awards will be presented at national level and provincial level.

- The best practices will be selected by a panel of experts according to pre determined criteria.
- Panel decision will be the final.

Dissemination of the information:

The national level best practices will be presented during the symposium.

A dossier will be compiled including all the proposals that conform to the eligibility criteria.

GUIDELINES FOR WRITING THE PROPOSAL

The proposals can be submitted in Sinhala, Tamil or English languages.

The proposal (excluding the title, author/s and acknowledgement) should not be more than 500 words. In addition, up to two tables can be included.

The proposal should include the following sections:

Title: Should depict the activity clearly.

Author/s: A proposal in the individual category should have only a single author. Other proposals can be submitted by one or more authors. All key personnel involved in the relevant activity should be included as authors. Name and affiliation of each author should be presented as given below:

Name, Designation, Place of work.

E.g.: Saman Thennakoon, Public Health Inspector, MOH Office, Kohuwala

Introduction: Should give a brief justification for conducting the activity along with the relevance of the activity for cancer prevention, control, patient care, palliative care, or surveillance.

Objective(s): the objective(s) of the activity.

Methodology: Should provide a description on how the activity was conducted.

Outcome: Describe what was achieved by the activity.

Discussion: Should include how the outcome of the activity would contribute to reduce the cancer burden in the country and what measures were taken to ensure the sustainability of the outcome, difficulties encountered and how were they solved.

Acknowledgement: Any person who has contributed but would not be accounted as an author and wishes to acknowledge could be listed.

Evidence: If any evidence is available, such as photographs or other documents, they should also be attached.

How to apply:

Please fill the following format and send through proper channels in Registered Post or hand deliver to:

Symposium on Best Practices - 2018

National Cancer Control Programme,

Public Health Complex,

No. 555/5, Elvitigala Mawatha,

Colombo 05, Sri Lanka

Copy of the proposal should be emailed to: nccp@health.gov.lk or director.nccpsl@gmail.com

For more information, contact: 0112 368627


Dr. Anil Jasinghe

Director General of Health Services

Dr. Anil Jasinghe
Director General of Health Services
Ministry of Health, Nutrition & Indigenous Medicine,
"Suwasiripaya"
385, Rev Baddegama Wimalawansa Thero Mawatha,
Colombo 10.

Cc

All Deputy Director Generals

Director - National Cancer Control Programme

Director - NCD Director - Dental Services

Director - Mental Health

Director - Primary Care

Director - Family Health Bureau

Provincial Consultant Community Physicians/ Consultants in Community Dentistry

Chief Medical Officer (School' Health)

All Regional Dental Surgeons

All Medical Officers (Non-Communicable Diseases)

All Medical Officers (Maternal and Child Health)