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SUWASIRIPAYA

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திகதி ) 19 /09/2020  
Date )

## සෞඛ්‍ය අමාත්‍යාංශය சுகாதார அமைச்சு Ministry of Health

General Circular Letter No: 02-78/2020

All Provincial Directors of Health Services  
All Regional Directors of Health Services  
All Heads of Institutions

### World Hospice and Palliative Care Day -2020

*Palliative Care: it's "My Care, My Comfort."*

Receiving appropriate palliative care is a right of each and every person suffering from life threatening illnesses and practicing palliative care according to the need is a responsibility of every health care professional.

In Sri Lanka, the need of palliative care is rising due to the increasing burden of non communicable diseases including cancer and ageing population. Eg: a significant number of cancer patients presents at late stage of cancer and it is estimated that there are more than 15000 cancer patients in need of palliative care and presently a very few patients have access to palliative care services. National Health Policy, Sri Lanka and National Strategic Framework for Palliative Care Development in Sri Lanka also identify the need for care to all patients who need such care for them to live and die with dignity.

World Hospice and Palliative Care Day is commemorated worldwide on the second Saturday of October every year. This year it will be commemorated on 10th October 2020, under the theme of "My Care, My Comfort." It highlights the importance of following areas: People experiencing serious life threatening health conditions can experience highest standard of care and the highest level of comfort with provision of palliative care services. It ensures caregivers and family members receiving best support to provide care for their loved ones, empower health care workers on holistic approach of care, integration of palliative

care services as an essential component of comprehensive health care across all levels of health care services and community.

National Cancer Control Programme intends to utilize the World Hospice and Palliative Care Day to draw attention of all stakeholders towards the above facts.

All heads of institutions are requested to communicate the content of this circular to all relevant health care staff in your institution (including Health Education Unit, Palliative care Unit etc.) and during the month of October, priority should be given to

- Conduct awareness programmes (eg. through Health Education Unit) on palliative care at institutional level for the health staff and for general public. IEC materials such as leaflets, fact sheets and presentations which are available in NCCP website could be utilized in the above mentioned activities. **NCCP web address** – [www.nccp.health.gov.lk](http://www.nccp.health.gov.lk)
- Establish /strengthen palliative care services at the institutional level (eg: palliative care consult services), Oncology units, CKD units and other relevant units and clinics.

Circular no. 01-34/2020 dated 31/08/2020 issued by Director General Health Services provides guidance to the head of institution on establishment of Palliative care consult services (PCCS) in the institution.

Sending a summary report with photographs on special activities conducted by your institution/ district to commemorate the World Hospice and Palliative Care Day 2020 to reach the Director/ National Cancer Control Programme, on or before the 15<sup>th</sup> of November 2020 would be highly appreciated and these activities will be included into the NCCP website.

Your leadership, guidance and active participation would be much valuable in this national endeavour.

  
**Dr. S. Sridharan**

Director General of Health Services

**Dr S. Sridharan**  
Director General of Health Services (Covering Up)  
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cc:

Secretary, Health  
Additional Secretary (PHS)  
Additional Secretary (MS)  
All Secretaries – Provincial Ministry of Health  
All DDGs  
Director – NCCP, MCH, NCD, HPB, PHC, NIHS, PHSD  
Head of institutions: implement the activities and feedback