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 சுவசிரிபாய
 SUWASIRIPAYA

සෞඛ්‍ය අමාත්‍යාංශය சுகாதார அமைச்சு Ministry of Health

All Provincial/Regional Directors of Health Services
 Directors of Teaching Hospitals/Specialized Campaigns
 MSS/DMOO of District General/Base Hospitals
 Heads of all Private Hospitals
 Heads of Decentralized Units

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 My No. &
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 திகதி & 25/11/2013
 Date &

Conducting Post-mortems on Maternal Deaths-Transportation of corpse to other hospitals

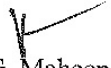
It is compulsory to conduct a post mortem in all cases of maternal deaths as per the circular issued to coroners by the Secretary to the Ministry of Justice and Law reforms dated 2008.10.02 to all coroners and the circular issued by Director General of Health Services (DGHS) dated 19.09.2011. It is recommended that the post-mortem is conducted preferably by a Consultant Forensic Pathologist.

There have been reported incidences that the dead body had to be transferred to conduct the post-mortem to the nearby hospital where there is a Consultant Forensic Pathologist. As a result, the relatives had to bear the cost of transportation and they have to face undue financial difficulties as a result of health sector requirement.

All heads of hospitals are hereby instructed to strictly adhere to following guidelines in such situations;

1. All possible measures should be taken to conduct the post-mortem at the hospital itself where the death occurred whenever possible. If a Consultant Forensic Pathologist is not available, the Medical Officer – Legal on duty should obtain advice or technical guidance from the nearest available Consultant Forensic Pathologist & proceed with conducting post-mortem at the place of death.
2. In situations where the transfer of the dead body to another hospital is inevitable, the dead body should be transported in a suitable vehicle at the lowest cost possible and the cost to be borne by the head of the hospital where the death took place.
3. Prospective corpse transport providers (funeral undertakers) may be selected at the beginning of each year to facilitate the process.
4. The awarding of the activity and payment to the transport provider should be done accordance with departmental & financial regulations.

Please bring the contents of this circular to all heads of hospitals (Government & Private sector) under your purview.


Dr. P.G. Maheepala
Director General of Health Services

Copy: DDG (MS I & II)
DDG (PHS II)
Director (MCH/ TCS / MS / Private Sector)
NPM – Maternal & Child Morbidity & Mortality Surveillance

q/c

