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சுகாதார, போசணை மற்றும் சுதேச வைத்திய அமைச்சு
Ministry of Health, Nutrition & Indigenous Medicine

General Circular Letter No: 02/33 /2018

All Provincial Directors of Health Services

All Regional Directors of Health Services

All Heads of the Institutions

Medical Professionals Involvement in Female Genital Mutilation

Female genital mutilation (FGM) is a harmful traditional practice seen in some countries in Africa, Middle East and Asia. It is also known as female genital cutting (FGC) or female circumcision, and involves intentional alteration or injury of female genital organs. Though not commonly seen, it has been reported that this is carried out among some groups of individuals in some regions in Sri Lanka.

As you are aware, this practice is associated with many negative health consequences. The Sectoral Oversight Committee on Women and Gender of Sri Lanka parliament also has identified this procedure as harmful, and has initiated processes to abolish this practice in Sri Lanka. As a part of this, a request has been made by the above committee to the Ministry of Health, Nutrition & Indigenous Medicine to issue a circular to the medical professionals requesting them to refrain from any involvement with FGM.

Accordingly, Family Health Bureau prepared a document based on international observations made on the ill effects of FGM , and also conducted a consultative meeting with relevant health and non-health stake holders on this matter. The following factors were emphasized at the meeting, and were endorsed by all participants.

- FGM of any degree has no medical benefit to the individual.
- FGM of any degree can lead to harm and suffering to the individual girl /woman, short term and long term, physical and psychological.
- FGM is a human right violation and can be considered as torture under the Children's Charter.

Any involvement in this procedure, be it conducting the procedure or encouraging it, is considered highly unethical. As such, hereby all Medical Professionals, whose primary ethical and moral obligation towards mankind is to 'do no harm' are instructed to refrain from any involvement regarding female genital mutilation. Disciplinary action shall be taken against any Medical Professional practicing or promoting Female Genital Mutilation, and not adhering to the stipulated instructions.


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Dr. Anil Jasinghe

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Cc: Secretary, Ministry of Health, Nutrition and Indigenous Medicine

Deputy Director General / Medical Services

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Chief Medical Officer of Health / Colombo Municipal Council

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Medical Officers / Maternal & Child Health

Medical Officers of Health