

**General Circular No:** 01-32 /2012

My No. – FHB/EB/BMS CODE/06/2012-P2

Office of the Secretary of Health,

Ministry of Health,

Suwasiripaya,

Rev. Baddegama Wimalawansa Thero Mawatha,

Colombo 10.

16<sup>th</sup> June 2012

To: All Provincial Secretaries of Health  
All DDGs of Ministry of Health  
All Provincial Directors of Health Services  
All Regional Directors of Health Services  
All Directors of Ministry of Health  
All Heads of Institutions.

### **Sponsorship of Foreign Tours by Manufacturers and Distributors of Designated Products**

It has been brought to my attention the conflict of interest and erosion of medical ethics arising as a result of healthcare workers belonging to the Ministry of Health accepting sponsorships for foreign tours offered by manufacturers and distributors of designated products or complementary foods as described under the Sri Lanka Code for the Promotion, Protection and Support of Breastfeeding and Marketing of Designated Products, without disclosing the same to the Monitoring Committee of the said Code and the Ministry. The designated products under the Code include infant formulae, soya milk, malted milk, condensed milk, full cream milk used for infants feeding and other infant milk substitutes used as breastmilk substitutes, any other products marketed or otherwise represented as suitable or used for feeding infants (not being complementary food), feeding bottles, teats, pacifiers and nipple shields.

Your attention is drawn to subsection 5.4 of the aforesaid Code, violation of which is a punishable offence under the Code. Since the above Code is a general direction under 6/1 of the Consumer Protection Act (now under 10/1 Consumer Affairs Authority Act), vide gazette no: 1285/9 of 23/04/2003, and has the equal value of a regulation, violation of the Code is a punishable offence, which is cognizable in nature.

As such, please advise the staff under your supervision to duly disclose such sponsorships and obtain the approval of the Monitoring Committee and the Ministry, violation of which will result in action being taken against such officers.

.....  
Dr. Ravindra Ruberu  
Secretary/Health

**Dr. Ravindra Ruberu**  
Secretary  
Ministry of Health  
"Suwasiripaya"  
385, Rev. Baddegama Wimalawansa Thero Mawatha,  
Colombo 10, Sri Lanka.

Cc: Additional Secretary/ Medical Services  
Director General of Health Services