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All Deputy Director Generals Ministry of Health

All Directors, Ministry of Health

All Provincial/Regional Directors of Health Services

Directors of Teaching/Provincial General Hospitals

Heads of Institutions

### **Levels of Neonatal Care for the Specialist Hospitals in Sri Lanka**

Services for neonatal care have improved over the past decades in Sri Lanka. Many hospitals have established facilities to provide special care and neonatal intensive care to the newborn babies. Provision of surgical facilities when needed for the newborns also has improved over the years.

The availability of neonatal care has improved outcomes for high risk infants including those born preterm or with serious medical or surgical conditions. The concept of regionalized perinatal care was articulated in 1976 March of Dimes report *Toward Improving the Outcome of Pregnancy; The 90s and Beyond*. The report included criteria that stratified maternal and neonatal care into 3 levels of complexity and recommended referral of high risk patients to centers with the personnel and resources needed for their degree of risk and severity of illness.

At present there are Consultant Neonatologists or Consultant Paediatricians working in Neonatology posts in many specialist hospitals have established Special Care and Intensive Care facilities for new born babies. The evidence suggest it is best to provide neonatal care for the critically ill neonates in a more centralized manner as it would lead to better outcomes in the newborn. As the number of critically ill newborns that are treated by the unit increases, the outcomes have shown to improve. In addition for the provision of care for the critically ill newborns more sophisticated facilities are required and centralization of such services have shown to be most cost effective.

Henceforth, for further improvement of neonatal care services, levels of neonatal care for the specialized hospitals are defined and it is envisaged to improve the capacity of larger units which provide care for the most ill babies and dealing with transfers from the periphery.

Four levels of neonatal care for specialist hospitals in Sri Lanka are identified and the four levels of care with the minimum facilities that should be available in such units are attached to this circular.



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Director General Health Services

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Cc;

Secretary, Ministry of Health

Additional Secretary, Medical Services

Chief Accountant Ministry of Health

President, Sri Lanka College of Paediatricians

President, Sri Lanka College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists

President, Perinatal Society of Sri Lanka

## **Levels of Neonatal Care for the Specialist Hospitals in Sri Lanka**

**Four Levels of Neonatal Care for Specialist Hospitals and the minimum criteria in each of the level are as follows;**

### **1. Level III+**

#### **Minimum Criteria**

- Cardiac surgery
- Neonatal neuro surgery
- ECMO
- Head Cooling
- Extremely low BW < 1000g
- And Level III Facilities
- And a MBC and LMC

### **2. Level III**

#### **Minimum Criteria**

- Neonatal surgery (in selected units)
- Ventilation up to CPAP, IPPV, high frequency + NO
- Exchange transfusion
- Cooling (selected centers only)
- BW <1250g + > 1250g with complications
- TPN
- And Level II Facilities
- And Level I Facilities
- And a MBC and LMC

### **3. Level II**

#### **Minimum Criteria**

- Short term ventilation + CPAP
- Other SCBU facilities
- Continuation of care of transferred back babies from level 3 & 4
- Intensive photo therapy
- BW > 1250g without complications

### **4. Level I**

#### **Minimum Criteria**

- Feeding problems-tube
- Nasal prong O2
- Photo therapy-single
- Incubator care/ thermal
- IV fluids
- IV antibiotics
- Management of hypoglycemia
- Thermal Care
- Stabilization and transport

**\*\* Intrauterine transfers have to be sent to a Level III centre. After delivery if there is no problem send to Level II or I**

Following is the list of hospitals with the level of care;

| Name of the Hospital         | Identified Level of Care |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Western Province</b>      |                          |
| LRH -                        | III+                     |
| CNTH                         | III                      |
| CSTH                         | III                      |
| SJGH                         | III                      |
| DMH                          | III                      |
| CSHW                         | III                      |
| DGH Kalutara                 | III                      |
| DGH Gampaha                  | II                       |
| DGH Negombo                  | II                       |
| BHA Panadura                 | II                       |
| BHA Avissawella              | II                       |
| BHA Homagama                 | II                       |
| BHA Wathupitiwela            | II                       |
| BHA Horana                   | II                       |
| BHB Mulleriyawa              | I                        |
| <b>Southern Province</b>     |                          |
| TH Karapitiya                | III+                     |
| TH Mahamodara                | III                      |
| DGH Matara                   | II                       |
| DGH Hambantota               | III                      |
| BHA Balapitiya               | II                       |
| BHA Tangalle                 | II                       |
| BHA Elpitiya                 | II                       |
| BHB Kamburupitiya            | I                        |
| BHB Tissamaharama            | I                        |
| BHB Deniyaya                 | I                        |
| BHB Walasmulla               | I                        |
| BHB Udugama                  | I                        |
| <b>Sabaragamuwa Province</b> |                          |
| PGH Ratnapura                | III                      |
| DGH Kegalle                  | II                       |
| BHA Embilipitiya             | II                       |
| BHB Mawanella                | I                        |
| BHB Balangoda                | I                        |
| BHB Kahawatta                | I                        |
| BHB Karawanella              | I                        |
| BHB Warakapola               | I                        |
| BHB Kalawana                 | I                        |
| <b>Northwestern Province</b> |                          |
| PGH Kurunegala               | III                      |
| DGH Chilaw                   | II                       |

| Name of the Hospital         | Identified Level of Care |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| BHA Kuliyapitiya             | II                       |
| BHA Puttalam                 | II                       |
| BHB Marawila                 | I                        |
| BHB Nikaweratiya             | II                       |
| BHB Dmabadeniya              | I                        |
| BHB Galgamuwa                | I                        |
| <b>Northcentral Province</b> |                          |
| TH Anuadhapura               | III                      |
| DGH Polonnaruwa              | III                      |
| BHB Thambuttegama            | I                        |
| BHB Padaviya                 | II                       |
| BHB Medirigiriya             | I                        |
| <b>Central Province</b>      |                          |
| TH Kandy                     | III                      |
| TH Peradeniy                 | III                      |
| SBCH                         | III+                     |
| DGH Nuwaraeliya              | III                      |
| DGH Matale                   | II                       |
| DGH Nawalapitiya             | II                       |
| BHA Gampola                  | II                       |
| BHA Dambulla                 | II                       |
| BHA Dickoya                  | II                       |
| BHB Rikillagaskada           | II                       |
| BHB Theldeiniya              | I                        |
| <b>Uva Province</b>          |                          |
| PGH Badulla                  | III                      |
| DGH Monaragala               | II                       |
| BHA Diyathalawa              | II                       |
| BHA Mahiyanganawa            | II                       |
| BHB Welimada                 | I                        |
| BHB Siyambalanduwa           | I                        |
| BHB Bibile                   | I                        |
| <b>Eastern Province</b>      |                          |
| TH Batticaloa                | III                      |
| DGH Trincomalee              | II                       |
| DGH Ampara                   | II                       |
| BHA Kalmunai North           | II                       |
| BHA AMH Kalmunai             | II                       |
| BHA Kanthalai                | II                       |
| BH Kinniya                   | I                        |
| BH Samanthurai               | I                        |
| BHB Akkaraipattu             | I                        |
| BHB Dehiattakandiya          | I                        |
| BHB Muttur                   | I                        |

| <b>Name of the Hospital</b> | <b>Identified Level of Care</b> |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| BHB Valachchenai            | <b>I</b>                        |
| BHB Mahaoaya                | <b>I</b>                        |
|                             |                                 |
| <b>Northern Province</b>    |                                 |
| TH Jaffna                   | <b>III+</b>                     |
| DGH Vavuniya                | <b>II</b>                       |
| DGH Killinochchi            | <b>II</b>                       |
| DGH Mannar                  | <b>II</b>                       |
| DGH Mullativu               | <b>II</b>                       |
| BHA Pointpedro              | <b>I</b>                        |
| BHA Thellipalai             | <b>I</b>                        |
| BHB Kyts                    | <b>I</b>                        |
| BHB Chettikulam             | <b>I</b>                        |
| BHB Chawakachcheri          | <b>I</b>                        |