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

To; All Deputy Director Generals,
All Directors,
All Provincial Directors of Health Services
All Regional Directors of Health Services
All Directors of Teaching/Provincial General /District General Hospitals
All Medical Superintendents of Base Hospitals

**Neonatal Transport Service for Eastern, Northern, Sabaragamuwa, Southern and
Western Provinces of Sri Lanka**

Over the past years Sri Lanka had great achievements in reducing neonatal mortality. For further reduction in mortality and to ensure quality survival of newborns, more improvements in quality of newborn care provision are required.

Improving advance newborn care is an identified strategy in the Maternal and Newborn Health Strategic Plan of 2017 - 2025 and the Sri Lanka Every Newborn Action Plan 2017-2020. Regionalizing Newborn Care is an important, cost effective, evidence based strategy to achieve best outcome for high risk newborns. Hence, there is a need to establish clinically competent **neonatal transport services** to retrieve high risk neonates in optimum condition to the centers providing advanced neonatal care. Evidence show neonatal transport is best when it is carried out by trained, competent staff designated for the process.

The **Neonatal Transport Service** consist of a **Neonatal Transport Center** that would be linked to hospitals in the **Neonatal Transport Network**.

It is planned to establish neonatal transport services in all the provinces in the country in a step wise manner. Currently the following four Neonatal Transport Centers are established by the Ministry of Health;

Province	Neonatal Transport Centres
Western	Lady Ridgeway Hospital
Eastern	TH Batticaloa
Northern	TH Jaffna
Sabaragamuwa	PGH Ratnapura
Southern	TH Karapitiya

Neonatal Transport Networks

Transfers are done from the hospitals within the transport networks as identified in the table on Neonatal Transport Networks given below. These networks were defined as per the proposed plan of networks in Newborn care in Sri Lanka; A Bottle Neck Analysis (FHB, 2015).

The list of hospitals served by each of the Neonatal Transport Center is given below;

Province	Neonatal Transport Centre	Hospitals in the Neonatal Transport Network
Northern	TH Jaffna	BH Point Pedro
		BH Thellipalai
		BH Chawakachcheri
		BH Kayts
		DGH Killinochchi
		BH Mallavi
		BH Mankulam
		BH Mulankavil
		DGH Mannar
		DGH Vavunua
		BH Cheddickulum
		DGH Mullativu
Sabaragamuwa	PGH Ratnapura	BH Embilipitiya
		Bh Kahawatte
		BH Balangoda
		BH Kalawana
		DGH Kegalle
		DGH Mawanella
		BH Karawanella
Eastern	TH Batticaloa	BH Vallaichchenai
		BH Kalavanchikudi

Province	Neonatal Transport Centre	Hospitals in the Neonatal Transport Network
		BH Kathankudi
		DGH Ampara
		BH Kalmuai South
		BH Kalmunai North
		BH Mahaoya
		BH Akkaraipauur
		BH Samanthurai
		BH Pothuvil
		BH Nindavur
		BH Kanthalai
		BH Muttur
		BH Kinniya
Western	LRH	TH Ragama
		DGH Gampaha
		DGH Negombo
		BH Wathupitiwala
		BH Meerigama
		BH Minuwangoda
		BH Kiribathgoda
		BH Avissawella
		BH Homagama
		BH Mulleriyawa
		DGH Kalutara
		BH Horana
		Kethumathi Hospital
		BH Pimbura
		DMH
		CSHW
		NCTH
		CSTH
Southern	TH Karapitiya	TH Mahamodara
		BH Balapitiya
		BH Elpitiya
		BH Udugama
		DGH Matara
		BH Deniyaya

Province	Neonatal Transport Centre	Hospitals in the Neonatal Transport Network
		BH Kamburupitiya
		DGH Hambantota
		BH Tangalle
		BH Tissamaharama
		BH Walasmulla

Administration of the Neonatal Transport Services

Administration of the neonatal transport service will be under the Director of the Hospital of the Neonatal Transport Centre. Provision of designated Ambulance facilities and other equipment required for effective transport eg; transport incubators with inbuilt ventilators and allocation of staff (Medical Officers, Nursing Officers, Minor Staff, and Ambulance Drivers) is the responsibility of the Director of the Hospital with the Neonatal Transport Centre. He/she should ensure that the designated ambulance for neonatal transport should have full insurance cover so that any patient or staff travelling in the ambulance is fully covered.

Functioning of the Neonatal Transport Networks

The Consultant Neonatologist or the Paediatrician at the referring hospital has to discuss the need for the transport with the Consultant Neonatologist or the Paediatrician at the Neonatal Transport Centre. It may be a neonate with a medical, surgical, cardiac or any other condition. If the call for the retrieval is for a cardiac or for a surgical condition, the neonate has to be retrieved to the relevant cardiac or the surgical centre. In some instances as per the need this Neonatal Transport Centre could be outside the catchment area of the relevant Neonatal Transport Network.

Neonatal Transport Team should also undertake back transfers from the Neonatal Transport Centre back to the referring hospital. In emergency situations, a call for a neonatal transport may come from a hospital outside the catchment area and these should be considered favourably.

Neonatal Transport Lead

The Consultant Neonatologist /Paediatrician in-charge of the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit of the Hospital where the Neonatal Transport Center is established, should function as the Neonatal Transport Lead and provide technical guidance for the neonatal transport service of the Network.

The Neonatal Transport Team

The neonatal transport team would consist of Medical Officers, Nursing Officers, Supporting Staff and Ambulance Driver of the Hospital where the Neonatal Transport

Centre is established. Neonatal Transport has to be included in the list of duties of Medical and Nursing Officers working in a Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. Staff members identified for the neonatal transport team should undergo statutory one day standard training course conducted by Master Trainers on Neonatal Transport.

The team will consist of trained doctors and nurses from the Neonatal Intensive Care unit of the Hospital that functions as the Neonatal Transport Centre. The doctors and nurses who had undergone the standardised neonatal transport training but working in Intensive Care Units other than the Neonatal ICUs in that hospital can opt for neonatal transport.

Provision of 24/7 services

At present the Neonatal Transport would be a service provided from 7.00 am to 4.00 pm, all days of the week. Medical Officer in Charge and the Nursing Sister/Nursing Officer in-charge of the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit should prepare the roster for the Medical Officers and the nurses identified for the neonatal transport team, in consultation with the Neonatal Transport Lead. The identified team has to provide neonatal transport services accordingly. Until they are called for a transport of a neonate, the rostered Medical Officers and the nurses shall attend to routine work in their respective units.

Training of members of the neonatal transport team

Organizing the one day standard neonatal transport training course and refresher training courses for the recruited staff members will be the responsibility of the Neonatal Transport Lead.

Duties of officers in the neonatal transport team

All officers participating in transport would be considered as in active duty. The officers participating in a neonatal transfer would be entitled to all the benefits and covered for risks as for government officers on duty.



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Cc;

The President, Sri Lanka College of Paediatricians

The President, Perinatal Society of Sri Lanka

The President, Neonatal Transport Forum