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Ministry of Health

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எனது இல) FHB/MCS/IM/2020
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திகதி) 25/12/2020
Date)

Provincial Directors of Health Services
Regional Directors of Health Services
Directors / Medical Superintendents of Hospitals

Review of Infant Deaths - 2021

Every year around 2800 infant deaths are reported. A sizeable proportion of such deaths are preventable. It is necessary to review such deaths and translate findings into practice, programs and policies to further prevent them.

All infant deaths should be investigated at field (all infant deaths) & hospital (>8 days of age) levels with a view to identify service gaps and improve care. [Infant deaths 0 – 7 days of age (Early neonatal deaths) are covered in monthly hospital perinatal death reviews].

However, it was noted that timely investigation, conducting of reviews and sending Infant Death Investigation Reports are not done in compliance with the regulations.

As such, in the year 2021, Family Health Bureau will closely monitor timely receipt of Infant Death Investigation Reports for each infant death from both MOH and Hospitals.

You are instructed to ensure that all infant deaths in the year 2021 are notified within 24 hrs, investigated within 14 days and completed Infant Death Investigation Formats are sent by all MOH and Hospitals to Family Health Bureau.

The relevant circular in this regard is attached for your reference and dissemination to relevant officials.

All relevant clinicians and MOOH under your purview should be instructed to comply with departmental regulations.


Dr. Asela Gunawardena
Director General of Health Services

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