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திகதி) 17.11.2020

සෞඛ්‍ය අමාත්‍යාංශය சுகாதார அமைச்சு Ministry of Health

All Line Ministry Heads of Institutions
All Provincial Directors/Regional Directors of Health

Provision of medicines for patients with Non-communicable Diseases (NCDs) taking treatment from the private sector

Patients with NCDs such as Cardiovascular Diseases, Diabetes, Chronic Respiratory Diseases and Chronic Kidney Disease are at a higher risk of complications if infected with COVID-19. It is critical to maintain optimal control of their NCDs by taking prescribed medicines regularly.


A substantial proportion of NCD patients in Sri Lanka take treatment from the private sector and are facing difficulties in obtaining their regular medication during the prevailing COVID-19 outbreak.

Patients with NCDs taking treatment from private sector institutions should be issued medicines if they visit a government sector hospital.

- Drugs should be issued from the Out Patients Department (OPD) for 2 weeks duration.
- The decision to issue medicines should be taken by the Medical Officer OPD by reviewing the most recent medical record/prescription and assessing patient requirements.
- The Medical Officer OPD may take further advice from the consultants/MOIC regarding issuing of drugs, if needed.
- The medical record/prescription should be clearly written and contain the rubber stamp of a SLMC registered medical practitioner.

- The medical record/prescription should be issued within last 6 months.
- All patients issued drugs should be registered in a separate register along with patient identification details (e.g. Name, NIC/passport number, Residential address and mobile number).
- Patients should be made aware that drugs will be issued by generic name and based on the availability of drugs in the hospital.
- If the patient wishes to continue taking medication from the government sector for more than 2 weeks the patient should be registered at the relevant clinic.
- The head of the institution should request the excess amount of medicines needed from the RMSD/MSD.

Please bring the contents of this guideline to the notice of all relevant staff at your institution/district/province.


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Director General of Health Services

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