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DNCCP/SUR/2/2012  
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 சுகாதார அமைச்சு  
 Ministry of Health

- All Provincial Directors of Health Services
- All Regional Directors of Health Services
- Director / Private Health Sector Development
- Medical Directors/ Officers In Charge of Private Hospitals
- Officers In Charge of Medical Centres/ Channel Consultation Centres
- Officers In Charge of Medical Laboratories

**Surveillance of Cancers in Sri Lanka -  
 Provision of Comprehensive Cancer Incidence Data**

Surveillance of cancer is an essential strategy for planning, implementation and evaluation of evidence based cancer control programmes. The National Cancer Control Programme of Sri Lanka which was established in 1980, started surveillance of cancers from 1985 and published cancer registries based on the data collected only from the government cancer treatment centres, as facilities for comprehensive treatment of cancer patients was available only in those institutions at that time. Several volumes have been published by the NCCP utilising the data collected from these institutions up to 2006. Population based cancer registries with comprehensive data is the accepted form of cancer incidence publication world over, thus National Cancer Control Programme is initiating a Population based cancer registry from year 2012. Since a considerable number of private health care institutions have started treatment of significant number of cancer patients, collection of data from these institutions has become absolutely essential to include all these data to improve the accuracy and completeness of this

publication. The accuracy of such information on cancer incidence and trends are very important for prevention and control of cancers.

Therefore collection of cancer incidence data from all the points of diagnosis (Pathology labs) treatment centres, by the National Cancer Control Programme has become mandatory for effective cancer control in Sri Lanka.

According to the Private Medical Institutions (Registration) PMI Act No. 21 of 2006 clause 10.e; the Private Health Regulatory Council is vested with the power of collection and publication of relevant health information and statistics. Accordingly, the private health institutions need to share relevant health information with the Ministry of Health for prevention and control of cancer in Sri Lanka.

Section 19.b further states: 'The reports, returns, statements and other information required to be furnished periodically by a Private Medical Institution to the Ministry of the Minister.'

The essential information that has to be provided by the private health institutions and laboratories which treat and make diagnosis are given in the table below.

**Table 1.1 Variables of the Cancer Surveillance**

Variable	Remark
<b>Patient details</b>	
<i>(Patient identification details is essential in duplicate entry checking at the Cancer Registry Database)</i>	
Name	Full Name
Address	Patient's usual residential address
Age	In years
Sex	Male/ Female
NIC No.	National Identity Card Number
BHT No.	Bed Head Ticket No.
<b>Tumour details</b>	
Site of Cancer (Topography)	Anatomical site with sub site
Incidence date	Date of the first pathology report (the date of biopsy done)
Primary / Secondary / Unknown	Primary site / Metastatic site / not known
Histology / Cytology (Morphology)	Exact histology / cytology type with behavior & differentiation
<b>History of Previous Malignancy</b>	
Yes/No	
Diagnosis	

The importance of collection of cancer incidence data has been brought to the notice of the Private Health Regulatory Council and is of the view that the data could be provided if the confidentiality of the data being preserved and privacy of the patient is not challenged.

Although personal identification data is included, confidentiality of data will be maintained compulsorily, throughout the process. National Cancer Control Programme would not release personal identification details to any 3<sup>rd</sup> party and all the reports generated using these data would contain only aggregated data.

The filled forms need to be posted to the following address monthly in a sealed cover stated as "confidential" on the upper left corner. It will be appreciated if the filled forms of the previous month would be sent before the end of next month.

**National Cancer Control Programme**  
555/5, Ground Floor  
Public Health Complex  
Elvitigala Mawatha  
Narabepita  
Colombo 5


The National Cancer Control Programme has developed a software programme for this purpose, which would be used by the Government Cancer Treatment Centres from 2012. Any private hospital interested in providing the data electronically could be provided with the software free of charge by the NCCP on request.

Further information in this regard could be obtained from-

Director, National Cancer Control Programme

Tel.no 011 - 2368627 or e mail [nccpsl@yahoo.com](mailto:nccpsl@yahoo.com).

Please advice and guide the relevant private health institutions in your respective areas to comply and extend their cooperation for the improvement of health services in Sri Lanka.

  
Y.D.N. Jayathilaka  
Secretary Health  
Ministry of Health

Copies to:

- 1: Hon.Minister- Ministry of Health

1. Hon. Deputy Minister – Ministry of Health
2. All Hon. Provincial Health Ministers
3. DGHS- Ministry of Health
4. Additional Secretary (Medical Services)- Ministry of Health
5. Additional Secretary (Public Health Services)- Ministry of Health
6. All Provincial Health Secretaries
7. Director - National Cancer Control Programme
8. Secretary, Private Health Regulatory Council
9. Sri Lanka Medical Association
10. Sri Lanka Dental Association
11. President, College of Oncology, College of Pathologists / College of Haematologists / College of Dentistry & Stomatology

Source: Bed Head Ticket (BHT)

### National Cancer Control Programme

Medical Record Department, ..... Hospital  
Quarter ..... Year .....

Date	NIC No.	BHT No.	Name	Personal			Sex	Age	Site	Cancer			Mode of Discharge	
				Address						Date of Diagnosis	Based on Diagnosis	Histology		

Printed \_\_\_\_\_  
(MOH/BOMIRADA/PPA)

Certified \_\_\_\_\_  
(Director/MIS of the Hospital)