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SUWASIRIPAYA

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சுகாதார அமைச்சு
Ministry of Health

Chief Secretaries of Provincial Councils
Provincial Secretaries of Health
Provincial Directors of Health Services
Regional Directors of Health Services
All Directors/ Medical Superintendents
District Medical Officers/ Medical Officers In Charge
Medical Officers of Health
Director/ NIHS

Management of Mercury in the Health Sector

The following decisions were taken by the Ministry to take measures to reduce the environmental health impacts of mercury and future unavailability of mercury containing equipment due to global action on elimination of mercury containing equipment.

1. To purchase non -mercury thermometers and phase out use of mercury thermometers gradually in health ministry institutions.
2. Procure non mercury aneroid sphygmomanometers and phase out use of mercury containing sphygmomanometers.
3. To collect mercury in hospitals due to breakages of thermometers safely in glass bottles with stopper and store them safely.
4. To store used CFL bulbs without breaking(preferably in a barrel) until suitable collection and disposal mechanism worked out.(currently Ministry of Health is in negotiations with mercury recycler to develop and effective mechanism).
5. To collect dental amalgam using amalgam separators for safe recycling.
6. Use of T-5 CFL bulbs instead of T-8 bulbs as it contains 50% less mercury providing same illumination.
7. Use of LED bulbs are not recommended due to the toxic substances in them.

Therefore please take suitable action to implement the above measures. You may obtain further clarification and technical guidance from Directorate of Environmental and Occupational Health of Ministry of Health
Tel : 2672004.

Thank you

Dr. Y D Nihal Jayathilaka
Secretary/ Ministry of Health

Dr. Y. D. Nihal Jayathilaka
Secretary
Ministry of Health
"Suwasiripaya"
385, Rev. Baddegama Wimalawansa Thero Mawatha,
Colombo 10, Sri Lanka.

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මාවන්න, කොළඹ 10, 385, Rev. Baddegama Wimalawansa Thero Mawatha, Colombo 10, Sri Lanka.

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PA/E&OH/HE/38/2012

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