

Minutes of the National Drugs and Therapeutic Committee meeting, held on 17.06.2019
(minute sheets attached: Page No: 2- 8):

Recommended & Forwarded



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Director / MSD

Dr. A. T. SUDARSHANA
Director
Ministry of Health
Medical Supplies Division
No. 357, Deans Road
Colombo 10.

Recommended & Forwarded



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DDG (Medical Supplies)

Dr. D. R. K. HERATH
Deputy Director General (Medical Supplies)
Medical Supplies Division
Ministry of Health Nutrition & Indigenous Medicine
Colombo 10.

Approved



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DGHS

Dr. Anil Jasinghe
Director General of Health Services
Ministry of Health, Nutrition & Indigenous Medicine,
"Suwasiripaya"
385, Rev. Baddegama Wimalawansa Thero Mawatha,
Colombo 10.

MINUTES OF NATIONAL DRUGS AND THERAPEUTIC COMMITTEE MEETING – 2019 (i)

DATE : 17.06.2019
TIME : 1.30 p.m.
VENUE : Auditorium, Ministry of Health

Participants:

1. Dr. Anil Jasinghe – DGHS
2. Dr. D.R.K. Herath – DDG (MSD)
3. Dr. A.T. Sudarshana – Director, MSD
4. Prof. Rohini Fernandopulle - Professor in Pharmacology
5. Prof. Shalini Sri Ranganathan - Professor in Pharmacology
6. Prof. Anuja Abayadeera - Consultant Anaesthetist
7. Dr. Kelum Deshapriya - Consultant Rheumatologist
8. Dr. Duminda Munidasa - Consultant Rheumatologist
9. Dr. Monika de Silva - Consultant Rheumatologist
10. Dr. Kelum de Silva - Consultant Rheumatologist
11. Dr. Sunethra Senanayake - Consultant Neurologist
12. Dr. Mathu Selvaraja - Consultant Nephrologist
13. Dr. Geethika Patabendige - Consultant Microbiologist
14. Dr. Dhammika Vidanagama - Consultant Microbiologist
15. Dr. Duminda Ariyaratne - Consultant Surgeon
16. Dr. Shehan Silva - Consultant Physician
17. Dr. Sanath Lanerolle - Consultant Obstetrician and Gynaecologist
18. Dr. Manilka Sumanatilleke - Consultant Endocrinologist
19. Dr. Sanjeeva Gunasekara – Consultant Paediatric Oncologist
20. Dr. Ramya Amarasena, Consultant Anaesthetist
21. Dr. M.Y.K. Wilfred - MD, SPC
22. Dr. K.G. Chamari Shanthimala – DGM (T & L), SPC
23. Dr. Himan De Silva – MOIC Sports Medicine
24. Ms. Dilshani Gunasekara – Pharmacist, NMRA
25. Mr. A.S. Nettasinghe – Senior Assistant Director, MSD
26. Mr. E.D. Weeraratne – Former AD (P), MSD
27. Ms. P.D. Solomon – AD (P I), MSD
28. Mr. J. R.S. Kumara - AD (P II), MSD

29. Mr. Kamal Hasantha - AD (Lab), MSD
30. Ms. K.S. Weerasekara - AD (S), MSD
31. Ms. L.C. Wanniarachchi - AD (QA), MSD
32. Mr. Kapila Susantha - Head (Planning), MSD
33. Mr. N.S. Kodikaraarachchi - HSCU (Lab), MSD
34. Ms. N.K.K. Wijesinghe - HSCU (S), MSD
35. Mr. H.M.D.N. Bandara - HSCU (P), MSD
36. Ms. Senani Karawita - Pharmacist, MSD
37. Ms. Vimarshi Dissanayake - Pharmacist, MSD
38. Ms. Sujatha Irangani - Pharmacist, MSD
39. Ms. Indunil Weliwatte - Pharmacist, MSD

Observers of MD Medical Administration Registrars:

1. Dr. U.M.G.S. Francis - Registrar, Medical Administration
2. Dr. M.D.U. Gunathilake - Registrar, Medical Administration
3. Dr. M.D.A. Krishantha - Registrar, Medical Administration
4. Dr. I.M.S.M. Rajakaruna - Registrar, Medical Administration
5. Dr. U.A.A.S. Perera - Registrar, Medical Administration
6. Dr. P. Karthilayan - Registrar, Medical Administration
7. Dr. T.M.S. Bandara - Registrar, Medical Administration
8. Dr. N.N. Weerasooriya - Registrar, Medical Administration
9. Dr. J.L.P. Chaminda - Registrar, Medical Administration
10. Dr. G.G.C. Sanjeeva - Registrar, Medical Administration
11. Dr. H.S.J. Senapathi - Registrar, Medical Administration
12. Dr. M.I. Siraj - Registrar, Medical Administration
13. Dr. J.A. Jayasundara - Registrar, Medical Administration
14. Dr. P. Satheshkumar - Registrar, Medical Administration

Excused:

1. Prof. Chandanie Wanigatunga - Professor in Pharmacology
2. Prof. Athula Kaluarachchi - Professor in Obstetrics & Gynecology
3. Prof. Saman Gunatilake - Professor of Medicine & Consultant Neurologist
4. Prof. Nirmla Wijekoon - Professor in Pharmacology
5. Dr. Chamari Weeraratne - Senior Lecturer in Pharmacology
6. Dr. Chandimani Undugodage - Consultant Respiratory Physician
7. Dr. Nimali Fernando, Consultant Cardiologist

8. Dr. Saman Gunasekara, Consultant Dermatologist
9. Dr. Amila Jayasekara, Consultant Surgeon
10. Dr. Dehan Gunasekara, Consultant Oncologist

Deputy Director General (Medical Supplies Division) delivered the welcome speech and briefly explained the importance of the meeting.

Director General of Health Services chaired the meeting.

As per the Agenda, senior Assistant Director/MSD, Mr. N.A.A.S. Nettasinghe presented the progress of the functioning of institutional Drugs and Therapeutic Committee (DTC) meetings and summary of DTC reports with selected matters to be discussed.

Decisions taken at the meeting are as follows:

No.	Suggestions for policy development / effective and rational use of drugs	Comments made at the NDTC	Decisions taken	Responsibility
01	Percentage of DTC reports received from the institutions are less than 50% in each category	D/MSD explained the recent strategies taken to encourage institutional DTC meetings and requested the consultants to cooperate with institutional heads in conducting DTC meetings.	Decided to send a circular to all the institutions regarding this matter.	Senior Assistant Director / MSD
02	Amendments of the Cabinet approved action plan on procurement – point 03 (III) related to Formulary revision.	Annual revising of the formulary is not practical and not rational under current circumstances.	Decided to revise the formulary for medical supplies, once in every 2 years.	Assistant Director (QA), MSD
03	Encourage the involvement of consultants in peripheral areas to the formulary revision.	D/MSD explained that there are no issues with current procedures, as consultants in peripheral areas are not requesting large number of new items.	Decided to establish a procedure from colleges to obtain suggestions from all members including consultants in	Assistant Director (QA), MSD

		<p>Consultant Rheumatologists suggested to involve physiotherapists, orthotists and occupational therapists for the revision of relevant rheumatology items.</p> <p>Consultants suggested to get a feedback on essentials from hospitals, to consider at the formulary revision.</p>	<p>peripheral areas, prior to formulary revision committee meetings of each category.</p> <p>Decided to include para-medical professionals as the members of the relevant formulary revision committees.</p> <p>Decided to send a letter to hospitals informing the communication channel to exchange information on Formulary Review. Suggested to implement MSMIS as a tool to evaluate such information.</p>	<p>Assistant Director (QA), MSD</p> <p>Assistant Director (QA), MSD</p>
04	Amendments of the Cabinet approved action plan on procurement – point 03 (IV and V) related to the approval to use of hospital-specific lists of Non Formulary items	<p>There are lapses in the current procedure of granting approval for the purchase of Non Formulary items through NDTC subcommittee. NMRA has recently established High Price Medicines Committee, which is mainly focusing on the clinical efficacy of the high priced medicines, and decisions taken at that committee will be informed to MSD. Ministry of Health and MSD should decide the affordability of clinically approved medicines with the budget allocated. Health Economists should also be included in the committee.</p>	<p>Decided not to grant approval for non formulary items by NDTC and decided prepare a ToR for a committee (approved by Secretary/Health) to evaluate Non Formulary items and forward it to DGHS for approval.</p>	Senior Assistant Director / MSD

05	Requests from DGH Chilaw and TH Karapitiya to grant permission to prescribe drugs for 3 months for Rheumatology clinics.	<p>Currently there are different policies have established in different institutions.</p> <p>E.g.: In Rheumatology and Cardiology clinics of NHSL, prescribe drugs for 2 or 3 months.</p> <p>There are conditions, where special drugs are not recommended to prescribe more than one month. E.g.: Mycophenolate Mofetil</p>	Policy decision was taken to prescribe selected drugs for selected clinic patients for two (2) months with the approval granted by the institutional DTC, based on the justifications provided by the consultants.	Head of all Institutions
06	Request of the College of specialists in Rheumatology & Rehabilitation to supply buffer stocks of biological disease modifying anti rheumatic drugs (Biological DMARDs)	<p>Consultant rheumatologists explained the different indications of the requested drugs, mentioning the non availability of Rituximab for last 2-3 months and long lead time (around 6 months) to get down the other DMARDs which are supplied on Named-Patient Basis.</p> <p>Most of the patients in treatments are in between the age of 40-50 years , who will get back to employment, if recover.</p> <p>Due to interruption of the continuous DMARD treatment, patients get worse by deformities, as the only other alternative is to keep patients on steroids, which can cause consequences such as hypertension, diabetes and osteoporosis.</p> <p>Although costs of the DMARDs are high, it is used on limited number of patients and limited number of doses is needed for each patient. But discontinuation of DMARDs, relapses the patient's condition, causing</p>	Decided to develop a mechanism to maintain a central buffer stocks at MSD and ensure continuous supply of Infliximab, Golimumab and Tocilizumab to the hospitals. The stocks used at the hospitals should be replenished through an audit form, under relevant control procedures.	Assistant Director (Pharmaceutical), MSD

		<p>waste of the treatment done. Therefore consultant rheumatologists suggested to keep buffer stocks of Biological DMARDs at MSD or hospitals.</p> <p>Consultant endocrinologist commented on the financial limit of Named-Patient items (1.5 million per patient per annum) and pointed out the its impact to avoid continuous treatment for patients with Octeotide.</p>		
07	Request from Consultant Vitreo retinal surgeons and Consultant Microbiologists to include consultants from relevant specialties to all SPC Technical Evaluation committees	<p>MD/SPC described the procedure of appointing consultants for SPC Technical Evaluation committees, by the Secretary of Health based on the nominations obtained by professional colleges in each year.</p> <p>Consultant Rheumatologists suggested including physiotherapists, orthotists and occupational therapists for the Technical Evaluation committees of relevant rheumatology items.</p>	MD/SPC agreed to rectify the issue and ensure the representation of consultants from relevant specialties to all SPC Technical Evaluation committees.	Assistant Director (QA), MSD
08	Continuous requests for machine compatible items from the hospitals	<p>Senior Assistant Director, MSD explained that It is impossible for MSD to comply due to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vast range of consumables and spares that are unique to individual machines & their brands • Large number of requests received from different institutions • Difficulties due to lack of details for tender evaluation of machine specifics. 	Decided to communicate with Director, Biomedical Engineering Services and check the possibility of establishing Framework agreements for machine compatible consumable procurement.	Senior Assistant Director / MSD

09	Summary of recommendations of Non Formulary subcommittee of NDTC (held on 14th March, 2019) : Presented for the observation & confirmation by the forum	No comments or objections made by the forum.	Decisions taken at the subcommittee are confirmed and finalized.	Assistant Director (QA), MSD Assistant Director (P 1), MSD Assistant Director (P 2), MSD
10	Request of Sports Medicine Unit, Ministry of Health to supply sports medicine consumables for the Sports medicine units in Ministry of Health.	Director/MSD informed the detailed information on cost and the registration statuses of these items need to be evaluated as this is a new area.	Decided to arrange a separate meeting with D/MSD and DDG/MSD to consider all aspects of supply of sports medicine items.	Coordinator, Sports Medicine Unit, Ministry of Health