

General Circular Letter No. 02 - 130/2008

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My No. STD/A/28/07
Dept. of Health Services,
385, Baddegama Wimalawansa Mw.,
Colombo 10.
.....15..... December, 2008

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To: Provincial Directors of Health Services,
Regional Directors of Health Services,
Directors of Teaching Hospitals,
Heads of Specialized Campaigns,
Heads of Government Medical Institutions,
Heads of Private Medical Institutions


GUIDELINES FOR THE DISPOSAL OF DEAD BODIES

The General Circular letters reference 02-63/2008 and 02-06/2008, dated 25th April 2000 and 28th December 2007 regarding disposal of dead bodies of persons with HIV & AIDS are hereby cancelled.

02. With regard to disposal of all dead bodies, (whether HIV positive or negative) the health personnel are advised to follow the standard precautions as given below.

GENERAL PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES

1. Dead bodies should be placed preferably in a body bag. In the event body bags are not available non-transparent polythene with a suitable thickness should be used.
2. All staff or persons handling the body and the soiled linen should wear gloves.
3. Where there is a possibility of injury to the fingers (e.g. cleaning the oral cavity) double gloves should be worn.
4. If there is a danger of fluid spillage such as when disinfecting or washing the body, the attendants should wear a mask, water proof apron and boots. Eye shield would also be advantageous.
5. Further, they must wash their hands thoroughly with soap and water after the procedures.
6. All disposable consumables such as linen, worn gloves etc should be properly disposed preferably by incineration as early as possible. All non-disposable items which will be re-used shall be properly and effectively disinfected.
7. All tissue waste should be disposed as early as possible by burial, incineration or any other effective method.
8. The relatives must be strongly discouraged from coming into direct contact with body fluids of dead bodies.


Dr. U. Ajith Mendis
Director General of Health Services