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பாலுறவுநோய்/எய்ட்ஸ் தடுப்பு வேலைத்திட்டம் STD/AIDS CONTROL PROGRAMME

Colombo 10 (Sri Lanka)

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To all the MOOic STD Clinics

## Internal Circular - National STD/AIDS Control Program The strategic use of antiretroviral drugs

Further to meeting at the Senior Management Team (SMT) on the same day at the sub committee meeting of the Care & Treatment of the National AIDS Committee the following decisions were arrived at. These decisions were abstracted from WHO publication "The strategic use of antiretrovirals to help end the HIV Epidemic" 2012.

- 1. By 2012, HIV prevention benefits of ART had prompted WHO to add sero discordant couples to the list of people deemed eligible for ART regardless of their CD4+ counts.
- 2. At the same time there is an increasing trend towards offering ART to all HIV +ve pregnant women for life, irrespective of CD4+ cell count ("Option B+"). Decreasing ART costs and likely clinical and programmatic advantages are encouraging this tend.
- 3. It is biologically plausible that ART would also reduce the risk of HIV transmission in populations other than heterosexual couples. Even though the magnitude of that effect may differ, an offer of ART irrespective of CD4+ cell count therefore could also be considered for key populations in settings with high HIV transmission rates (including for HIV-positive sex workers, men who have sex with men, transgender women and people who inject drugs).
- 4. It was also decided that Beach Boys and prison inmates who are HIV positive should also be offered ART irrespective of their CD4+ cell counts.

Dr. N. Edirisinghe.

Director.

Cc: Dr. K. Buddhakorale, Coordinator HIV care and Treatment.