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Quarantine Unit

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சுகாதார அமைச்சு  
MINISTRY OF HEALTH

Chief Executive Officer  
Nawaloka Hospitals PLC  
Asiri Group of Hospitals  
Durdens Hospital  
Hemas Hospitals

**Standard Operating Procedures on Admission of  
Foreign National Patients to Private Hospitals for treatment in Sri Lanka**

The Standard Operating Procedures on Admission of Foreign National Patients to Private Hospitals for treatment in Sri Lanka which is approved by the Secretary, Ministry of Health which should be adopted by private hospitals who provide treatment for foreign national patients during the COVID-19 pandemic situation is attached herewith.

  
Dr S.M. Arnold  
Director, Quarantine

**Dr. S. M. ARNOLD**  
Director (Quarantine)  
Ministry of Health  
Colombo 10.

<b>Title:</b>	<i>Standard Operating Procedures on Admission of Foreign National Patients to Private Hospitals for treatment in Sri Lanka</i>	
<b>No.:</b>	<i>DQ-01</i>	<b>Version :</b> <i>01</i>
		<b>Effective Date:</b> <i>28-09-2020</i>
<b>Prepared by:</b> <i>Quarantine Unit of Ministry of Health, Sri Lanka</i>		

**Standard Operating procedures on Admission of Foreign National Patients to Private Hospitals for treatment in Sri Lanka**

**Prerequisite for Foreign National Patients before embarkation**

1. Patients having symptoms of COVID-19, who are suspected or diagnosed of COVID-19, are not permitted to arrive to Sri Lanka for treatment.
2. Both Foreign National Patients and Private Hospitals should get the prior approval (for each group of patients) from Director General of Health Services (DGHS) of Ministry of Health, if seeking treatment at a designated Private Hospital in Sri Lanka. Approval given by any person other than the Director General of Health Services or a person to whom the Director General of Health Services has officially delegated the authority will be considered as invalid.
3. Foreign National Patients should have a negative results of COVID-19 PCR test done within 72 hours prior to departure from the country of origin. This report must be in English language.
4. All costs to cover the hospital stay, treatment and quarantine if required shall be borne by the patient.
5. All patients should possess a valid insurance coverage for minimum of USD 50,000 and also should cover COVID-19 infections.
6. A refundable deposit of USD 3,000 should be deposited with the private hospital in order to meet any treatment and testing cost by government hospitals for patients diagnosed of COVID 19. The private hospital should settle the government hospital bill through this refundable deposit and insurance if and when required.
7. Bystanders are not allowed to accompany the patients.

### **Procedures to follow after arriving to Sri Lanka**

1. Private hospital should arrange an ambulance service for the patient to be transported to the hospital. The patient should be transported to the hospital adhering to COVID-19 preventive measures. The ambulance staff should wear appropriate PPE and the ambulance should be disinfected after transportation of the patient.
2. On arrival PCR Test should be performed on day one.
3. Private Hospital should email the details of the foreign national patient (Name, Passport Number, Country of the patient, Date of admission, Reason for admission, PCR test results, Treating consultant, contactable number of hospital authorities responsible for the patient) to Epidemiology Unit (chepid@sltnet.lk, samithag@hotmail.com) and the Quarantine Unit of Ministry of Health (quarantinelk@gmail.com) within 24 hours after admission. A database should be maintained by Private Hospitals with the facility for Ministry Stakeholders to view the data. Auto generation of email to above e mail addresses whenever the database is changed.
4. Patients who arrive from foreign countries for treatment need to be managed as possible COVID-19 infected persons during the first 14 days of their arrival.
5. Patients should be on strict quarantine at the Private Hospitals.
6. After conducting Day I PCR testing, another PCR testing should be repeated on day 7 and 14. All foreign patients should be kept for minimum of 14 days at the Private Hospital. Even if the patient is in a status to be discharged from the hospital under normal circumstances, they should stay at the hospital for a minimum of 14 days.
7. COVID-19 PCR test results of the patients should be sent by Private Hospitals to Epidemiology Unit according to the format given by Ministry of Health.
8. If foreign patient becomes positive for COVID-19 during their stay at the hospital, inform the Epidemiology Unit (Dr. Samitha Ginige-0777664036) immediately for further action on transferring the patient to a government hospital for treatment.
9. After discharging, Private Hospital should take measures to transport the patient directly to the airport in a hospital ambulance adhering to COVID-19 preventive measures. Ambulance should be disinfected after transporting the patient.
10. After discharging the patient, the room should be fully cleaned and disinfected adopting a good cleaning protocol. When the previous person who stayed in the room had a negative

PCR test result the room can be occupied after full cleaning and disinfecting. When the previous patient who stayed in the room had a COVID-19 positive PCR result the room should be fully cleaned and disinfected, followed by another 24h of complete airing of the room, re-clean and thereafter allow for occupation.

11. If the patient passes away while on treatment, inform the Epidemiology Unit immediately for further actions. Private Hospital authorities shall adhere to the instructions given by the Epidemiology Unit to dispose the human remains.
12. In the hospital, the area reserved for foreign patients should be separated in a manner that access is restricted to authorized staff of the ward with appropriate Personnel Protective Equipment (PPE). Those hospitals may need to have a separate ICU facility to provide care to those patients if need arises.
13. There should be a dedicated ward staff to take care of these patients and they should not be assigned to work in other units of the hospital.
14. All staff attending the patients should wear proper PPE and practice other recommended health measures.
15. Staff should adhere to strict cleaning and disinfection protocols of the ward.
16. The hospital authorities should take responsibility in the event if the patient breaches these guidelines.

Any changes to this guideline will be circulated among all stakeholders as a new version.