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All Provincial Directors of Health Services All Regional Directors of Health Services All Heads of hospitals (Government and Private Sector)

## Fever in Pregnancy and Postpatrum Period

Findings of Maternal Death Reviews reveal that many maternal deaths have occurred due to Pneumonias, Dengue Haemorrhagie Fever and other febrile illnesses in pregnancy. There were several deaths due to ongoing Influenza H1N1 infection reported over the last few months. Detailed analysis has found that a majority of dead women have not attended for inward hospital care in time and this has lead to fatal outcomes. They have remained at home with fever and taken treatment from first contact physicians over several days.

Considering the above information, it is recommended to refer all pregnant and post-partum women with fever for inward care on the <u>Day I of the illness</u>. The highest level clinician (Obstetricians or Physicians) should decide on the continuation of inward care. It is also essential to educate general public to seek care at a hospital on the 1<sup>st</sup> day itself of the fever.

Please instruct all related elinicians (Obstetricians, Physicians), medical officers (OPD, ETU, Obstetric Units and Medical Units), Medical Officers of Health and Public Health Midwives under your purview / in your institutions to oblige with the above national recommendation.

All RDHS should ensure that this information reach all General Practitioners (including part time GPs) practicing in each MOH area are informed about the content of this letter through area PHIs and also they adhere to this recommendation.

Thanking you,

Dr. P. G. Mahipala

Dr. Palitha Mahipala

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Copy: DDG (PHS I & II, MS I & II) Directors (TCS, HEB, MS, MCH, Laboratory Services, MRI)
Presidents (SLCOG/SLGP/CCPSL/SLMA)

Director - Private Health Sector Development -Please instruct all private sector hospitals