

April 11, 2002

To: All Provincial Secretaries of Health,  
All Provincial/Deputy Provincial Directors of Health  
All Directors of Teaching Hospitals,  
All Heads of Specialized Campaigns,  
Medical Superintendents of Provincial Hospitals &  
All Heads of Institutions

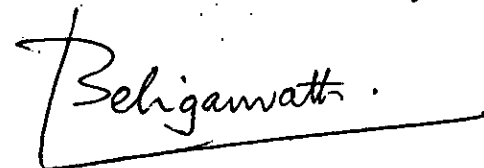
**TOBACCO RELATED MORTALITY**  
**COMPLETENESS OF DEATH CERTIFICATION**

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Further to the general circular No. 1674 of July 31, 1990 I wish to draw your attention to the importance of proper recording of deaths. The "Declaration of Death" form has a section for cause of death comprising three components: Immediate Cause, Antecedent and / or Underlying Causes and Other Contributory Causes. It is noticed that recording of antecedent/ underlying causes and contributory causes is often neglected.

In the case of tobacco related mortality too, recording of the deaths is often not comprehensive. It is evident that consumption of tobacco is one of the key risk factors for major non-communicable diseases such as Cancer, Cardiovascular Disease (including Heart Disease, Stroke and Hypertension), Diabetes and Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease. When the medical history of a patient shows that consumption of tobacco has influenced the morbid process and contributed to the fatal outcome, it shall be recorded in the relevant section of the cause of death.

Please bring this circular to the notice of all Medical Officers and ensure that the content of this circular is strictly adhered to.



Dr. A.M.L. Beligaswatte  
Director General of Health Services

