Regional Director of Health Services Office,

Gampaha.

27-07-2016

Regional Drug and Therapeutic Committee Meeting 2016 -Gampaha District

Committee meeting of the Regional Drug and Therapeutic Committee was held on 27.07.2016 at the auditorium of Regional Health Services Director’s office with the precedence of the Regional Director of Health Services, Doctor Ahamed Fareed. The Regional Director of Health Services first addressed the audience and welcomed everyone who was present. Then he emphasized some problematic situations on which the attention should be paid. He said that paying attention to the lack of suitable storing system to store medical supplies is as important as paying attention to distribute medicines on time, expiry dates of medicines and the standards of medicines.

He also stated that the staff of regional medical supplies division is facing severe difficulties because of lack of proper facilities. He said that he has reserved a land from Gampaha area and has planned the preliminary work required to construct buildings for medical supplies division. He further stated that spacious stores, rest room facilities and quarters are included in the building complex.

Requesting to submit further proposals if there are any to formalize the management of medical supplies, he asked the regional pharmacist Mrs. Renuka Kularatne to present the minutes of last Regional Drug and Therapeutic Committee Meeting which was held last year, to the audience.

The Deputy Director of the Colombo Medical Supplies Division, Dr. Sudarshan who addressed the audience next informed that efficiency of Medical Supplies Division remains in a very high level. He also informed that medical supplies requests and other relevant documents should be sent to fax no 0112686530 in order to provide a more efficient service. He requested to include the name of the sender, phone number, fax number and email address in all documents which are sent to Medical Supplies Division. He explained that the questions of all can be solved easily and quickly and answers can be sent through fax to the relevant people. He also stated that all the information about slow moving, Nonmoving drugs will be obtained and necessary steps will be taken to distribute them to required areas.

He showed that following this system can minimize expiry of medicine and the quantity of medicine which is to be condemned and enable the distribution of medicine to the people who mostly require it.

As an answer to a question raised by the pharmacist Samantha Gunasinghe of Ragama Regional Medical Supplies Division, he said that he will take action to supply injection metronidazole to Regional Supplies Division at the end of July and the injection Rhogam at the end of August. He also said that new stocks of injection Dobutamine will be supplied to medical institutes instead of quality failed withdrawn stocks. Pharmacist who represented Ragama medical supplies division said that there are no aspirin tablets (of any kind) at Ragama Medical Supplies Division. Deputy Director of Colombo Medical Supplies Division said that this problem will be solved within next few weeks. He said that there are problems regarding supplying medicines such as Tab Enalapril, Injection Amidarone, Soda lime, Solvent Ether.

He also said that everything in kotikawatta stores was submerged in the flood during the emergency flood disaster situation and asked to buy new stocks regionally instead of using damaged goods to maintain stocks in hospitals without any deficiency. Medical superintendent of Wathupitiwala said that Oxygen Regulators which are given to hospitals nowadays often suddenly turn off. Answering the above issue the deputy director said that these can be repaired using two methods. Either it can be repaired by technicians around the institute or it can be directed to Bio Medical Engineering unit. He stated that most of the times, regulators turn off suddenly because the untrained staff uses those. He said that untrained staff in institutes must be trained for that.

He also mentioned that standards of medicines are continuously checked by Medical Supplies Division and they are continuously in alert on quality failed drugs. Ideas of specialists will be considered when buying medicine and medical supplies. Pharmacist who represented Ragama Medical supplies Division pointed out problems about the pronto system. He said that if incorrect data is entered to the pronto system by mistake, it cannot be corrected. Medical supplies which have been supplied to Ragama Medical Supplies Division from Colombo Medical Supplies Division through pronto system were issued using invoices at the beginning.

These stocks have been used in institutes and now the stocks are over. But as these items were not issued through pronto system to the institutes it is still shown in the system as expired medicine because the expiry date is passed. He said that if a method is not invented to remove these items from the system it can be problematic for the estimates for next year. Assistant Director of Colombo Medical Supplies Division, Mr. Pushpakumara Requested to present the question of pronto system by a letter. Specialist Dr. Aruna Munasinghe who represented Kiribathgoda Base Hospital informed that there is no pronto included IT system in his hospital. Chief pharmacist of Base Hospital Wathupitiwala said that as her hospital lacks a pronto system it creates problems when providing nonmoving and slow moving drugs to the hospitals which have a pronto system.

Answering the above issue Deputy Director of Medical Supplies said he believes that pronto systems can be established in every base hospital in two years. It was discovered that an optional mode must be found to exchange medicine between the hospitals with a pronto system and hospitals without a pronto system.

Gampaha Regional Director of Health Services, Dr.Fareed informed that a written order from MSD is sufficient to buy medicine locally purchase. He advised not to wait until it is provided by MSD and asked to call and inquire. However he said that only oral instructions can be obtained then and written instructions won’t be received or will be delayed.

A question was raised about the quality failed drugs destruction which is often audited. Chief pharmacist in Base Hospital Wathupitiwala said that till 2014, medicines bought from State Pharmaceutical Corporation were destructed but medicines bought regionally from MSD haven’t been destructed. She requested to take necessary steps to destruct stocks of quality failed drugs as these are bulked in stores at Gampaha District.

Mr. Pushpakumara, Assistant Director of MSD indicated that there are 6 more remaining districts for the first round of the destruction of drugs purchased from SPC and stated that, after the destruction of drugs has taken place in those districts, the drug destruction will be occurred in Gampaha district again. And also he advised to send written requests if there are special necessities.

Chief pharmacist of District General Hospital Gampaha said that a vehicle is required for the transportation of medicines. Deputy Director of MSD said that he is willing to provide a lorry to transport medicines at any time and informed to reserve the needed lorry in advance for transporting the medicines.

Then the specialist in Kiribathgoda base hospital Dr. Aruna Munasinghe did a lecture on rational use of Antibiotics. He showed that a regional committee on using antibiotics should be appointed and guide lines about using antibiotics should be made. He said that, by following these steps society can be made aware of the problems occur because of the irrational usage of antibiotics. He said that using antibiotics irrationally can lead to the extinction of humankind in the future.

Accountant spoke next and said that because stored goods, researches, auditing inquiries are with monitory values, management of medicine must be formalized. She instructed to maintain medicine stock books and medicine balancing books accurately. Regional Epidemiologist, Dr. Ranasinghe made the audience aware of the immunization program, using and storing injections. Regional dental surgeon Mr. Gamini said that medical supplies has been distributed properly to dental clinics now and he hopes that this situation will prevail here after.

Regional pharmacist did a presentation on how to give information about stocks in the institute to regional health services offices when a quality failed circular reaches the institute, method to request the medicine and medical items which are deficient in the institute from the Regional Medical Supplies Division Ragama, the method to confiscate expired items.

Finally, pharmacist in Ragama Medical Supplies Division thanked everyone for their presence and concluded the meeting.

Regional Director of Health Services, Divisional Pharmacist

Gampaha Gampaha