

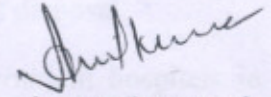
F.No.Z.28015/24/09-MH II
Directorate General of Health Services
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
Government of India
(MH II Section)

Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi.
Dated: 8th March, 2010

Sub.:- Minutes of Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held under the Chairpersonship of Dr. (Mrs.) L. Sonar, DDG (P) on 10.12.09 at 3.00 PM in Resource Centre, Nirman Bhawan regarding issue of Mercury and E-waste in Central Government Hospitals are sent herewith for information and necessary action.

Approved Guidelines to Reduce Environmental Pollution due to Mercury and E-waste and the list of E-waste recyclers authorized by Central Pollution Control Board are enclosed along with.



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To

1. Dr. G.K. Sharma, Director, Lady Harding Medical College, New Delhi
2. Dr. N. C. Das, Addl. Medical Superintendent, Dr. RML Hospital, New Delhi
3. Dr.H.P.Singh, Acting Head, Dental Department, Dr. RML Hospital, New Delhi
4. Dr. A.K. Agarwal, CMO(NFSG), Medical Stores Organization, West Block No.1, Wing No. 6, R.K. Puram, New Delhi-66.
5. Dr.Sunita Singhal, CMO, Safdarjang Hospital, New Delhi
6. Dr.Pravesh Mehra, Associate Professor & Head, Dental Department, LHMC and associated Hospitals, New Delhi
7. Dr.Anurag Jain, Dental Department Safdarjang Hospital, New Delhi
8. Ms. Anu Agarwal, Toxics Link, H-2, Jungpura Extension, New Delhi-110049.
9. Ms.Priti Mahesh, Toxics Link, H-2, Jungpura Extension, New Delhi-110049.

Copy to

1. Medical Superintendent, Dr. RML Hospital, New Delhi
2. Medical Superintendent, Safdarjang Hospital, New Delhi
3. PS to DDG (P).

Guidelines to Reduce Environmental Pollution due to Mercury and E-waste in Central Government Hospitals and Health Centers

1. All Central Government Hospitals and health centers are advised to gradually phase out mercury containing equipments (thermometer, BP Instruments etc.) and replace them with good quality non mercury equipments, in order to prevent the toxic effects of mercury on patients and health care workers. It is recommended that a mercury phase-out plan be developed, to start procurement of new equipment which is mercury-free.
2. Until the mercury based equipments are fully phased out, following guidelines will be used for management of Mercury waste
 - a. As mercury waste is a hazardous waste, the storage, handling, treatment and disposal practices should be in line with the requirements of Government of India's Hazardous Waste (Management, Handling and Trans-boundary Movement) Rules 2008, which may be seen at website www.cpcb.nic.in.
 - b. Mercury-contaminated waste should not be mixed with other biomedical waste or with general waste. It should not be swept down the drain and wherever possible, it should be disposed off at a hazardous waste facility or given to a mercury-based equipment manufacturer.
 - c. Precaution should be taken not to handle mercury with bare hands and as far as possible; jewellery should be removed at the time of handling mercury. After handling mercury, hands must be carefully washed before eating or drinking. Appropriate personal protective equipment (rubber gloves, goggles / face shields and clothing) should be used while handling mercury.
 - d. Mercury-containing thermometers should be kept in a container that does not have a hard bottom. Prefer a plastic container to a glass container, as the possibility of breakage will be less.
 - e. In case of breakage, cardboard sheets should be used to push the spilled beads of mercury together. A syringe should be used to suck the beads of mercury. Mercury should be placed carefully in a container with some water. Any remaining beads of mercury will be picked up with a sticky tape and placed in a plastic bag, properly labeled.
3. Reporting formats must be used to report and register any mercury spills / leakages.
4. Hospitals and health centres should work to create awareness among health workers and other stakeholders regarding the health and safety hazards of mercury and E-waste (electrical and electronic waste).
5. A clause for Buy back policy may be included at the time of tendering for purchase of electronic equipments for minimization of E-waste.
6. E-waste recyclers authorized by Central Pollution Control Board may be contacted for collection and disposal of E-waste.