**COMMUNITY MEDICINE CLERKSHIP**

Community Medicine Clerkship is a field based appointment comprising a series of visits to selected settings involved in delivery of public health services. This appointment is scheduled over four weeks during the fourth year of the course. You will visit relevant institutions/ field based settings and gain awareness on how public health related services are provided to the community. These visits will give you the opportunity to participate in community health activities. A training to improve skills on health promotion will be given early in the appointment, enabling you to develop and deliver effective health promotional messages using innovative techniques. During the appointment students are encouraged to critically evaluate the observed services and the health promotional strategies adopted.

***How would this appointment help you in your future practice as a doctor?***

This appointment helps you to develop skills and attitudes of maintaining professional standards, team work and communication skills that are essential to a doctor. It enables you to understand social dimensions of health and disease; gain knowledge on health promotion and disease prevention, population health and health systems and healthcare planning and management including information management providing a wider understanding of epidemiology and demography. It will expose you to some of the legal responsibilities of a doctor and will be helpful to develop certain clinical skills.

Places to be visited during the clerkship programme

1. **Medical Officer of Health, Ragama**
2. **Public Health Inspector**
3. **Public Health Midwife**
4. **Office of the Regional Director of Health Services, Gampaha**
5. **Antenatal clinic**
6. **Child welfare clinic**
7. **District Hospital**
8. **Anti-filariasis Campaign, Kiribathgoda**
9. **School Medical Inspection**
10. **NPTC &CD, Welisara**
11. **Factory visit**
12. **Correctional Centre for Youthful Offenders, Pallansena, Negombo**
13. **St Joseph’s School for the Deaf, Ragama**
14. **Infection Control Unit, Colombo North Teaching Hospital, Ragama**
15. **Water Treatment Plant and Sewerage Treatment Plant, Raddolugama**
16. **Community Dental Services**
17. **Medical Officer of Health (MOH)**

**Learning outcomes**

At the end of the visit, the student will be expected to:

* Describe the organisational structure of a MOH area and the method of primary health care delivery
* Describe the role of a MOH as a public health manager, community leader and a public health service provider
* Demonstrate an understanding of the utilization of data for planning primary health care services
* Describe the supervisory role of the MOH and methods employed to evaluate field staff

**Content areas**

* Organizational structure of the MOH area
* Demographic characteristics of the MOH area
* Public health problems in the area
* Health facilities in the area
* Other sectors important for delivery of primary health care
* Duties of an MOH
* Maternal and child health services
* EPI programme, maintenance of cold chain for vaccines, open vial policy and adverse effects following immunization (AEFI)
* Investigation of notifiable diseases
* Growth monitoring programme
* Well Woman Clinic programme and Family Planning services
* School health services
* Registers and records maintained by the MOH and the returns prepared
* Dissemination of data generated at divisional level
* Mechanisms for supervision and evaluation of field staff
* Planning of primary health care services

RECOMMENDED READING MATERIAL

* Duty list of MOH
* Ministry of Health Circular on maintenance of an MOH office, Circular no. 110.

1. **Public Health Inspector (PHI)**

**Learning outcomes**

At the end of the visit, the student will be expected to:

* Describe the role of the PHI in the control of communicable diseases, investigation of notifiable diseases, school health, food safety, housing, environmental sanitation and safe water
* Describe the process of inspecting a food outlet and follow up action
* Demonstrate an understanding of laws related to habitable housing
* Describe methods of ensuring safe water
* Describe methods of garbage disposal, and environmental sanitation
* Describe the registers and records maintained by PHIs and returns submitted
* Discuss the usefulness of the data gathered and generated by PHIs in relation to their scope of work.

**Content areas**

* Duties of PHIs
* Organisation of PHI activities
* Notifiable diseases, process of investigation of a notification and activities for control of communicable diseases
* Food Act and activities on ensuring food safety including survey of food handling institutions, formal and informal sampling and legal action
* Ensuring safe water, chlorination of wells and testing water samples
* Basic sanitation facilities available in the area and activities for improving environmental sanitation
* Examining housing plans and sites for recommendations on habitable housing
* School health inspections and activities
* Provision of services for mass population gatherings
* Registers and records maintained and returns submitted

Learning activity: Observation of the office of the PHI, activities for ensuring safe water supply and inspection of a food handling institution

RECOMMENDED READING MATERIAL

* Herath H.M.S.S.D 1989, A manual for the Sri Lanka Public Health Inspector, Ministry of Health, Colombo.
* Duty list of PHI, circu dated

1. **Public Health Midwife (PHM)**

**Learning outcomes**

At the end of the visit, the student will be expected to:

* Describe the role of the PHM in the delivery of domiciliary maternal and child care services
* Describe the process of registering a pregnant mother and following her up until delivery
* Describe the process of caring for post partum mothers and educating the mother on child care
* Describe child care activities carried out by PHMs
* Describe family planning services provided by PHMs
* Describe health promotional and other health care services provided by the PHM
* Describe the registers and records maintained by PHIs and returns submitted
* Discuss the usefulness of the data gathered and generated by PHIs in relation to their scope of work.

**Content areas**

* Duties of the PHM
* Organisation of the PHM area
* Registration of fertile couples/ eligible families and provision of domiciliary care
* Registration of pregnant mothers and field and clinic based antenatal care
* Postnatal visits and post partum care
* Registration of infants and well baby care including immunisation
* Growth Monitoring Programme at field and clinic level
* Family Planning services
* Well Woman care
* Indicators of PHM’s performance
* PHM’s diary, registers and records maintained and returns submitted

Learning activity: Observation of the office of the PHM and delivery of domiciliary care

RECOMMENDED READING MATERIAL

* Duty list of PHM
* Family Health Bureau, Annual Report on Family Health Sri Lanka -2007-2007, ‘Clinic Activities’, pp 4 -11, Ministry of Health, Colombo.

1. **Office of the Regional Director of Health Services (RDHS)**

**Learning outcomes**

At the end of the visit, the student will be expected to:

* Describe the role of the RDHS in providing health care services in the district
* Describe the role of the MO-MCH in providing family health services in the district
* Describe the role of Regional Epidemiologist in the control of communicable diseases in the district
* List the public health staff at regional level and describe their roles and responsibilities
* Describe the process of an investigation of a maternal death
* Describe measures taken in the district regarding emergency preparedness and rapid response
* Describe and discuss district level public health reviews
* Discuss the process of prioritization of health problems at district level.

**Content areas**

* Responsibilities of the RDHS
* Organisation of health care services in a district
* Decentralised health institutions under the provincial health services
* Planning health care services using regional data
* Duties of the MO-MCH
* Duties of the RE
* Supportive public health staff at regional level
* Investigation of a maternal death in a district
* Managing epidemics at district levels
* District level public health reviews
* Prioritizing health problems in an area

RECOMMENDED READING MATERIAL

* Duty lists of MO(MCH) and RE
* Family Health Bureau, Overview of Maternal Mortality in Sri Lanka, 2009, Ministry of Health, Sri Lanka.

1. **Antenatal clinic**

**Learning outcomes**

At the end of the visit, the student will be expected to:

* Describe and discuss the purpose of conducting ANCs
* List clinic procedures and services provided at the ANC giving reasons as to why these services are provided
* Describe and discuss the pregnancy record
* List the indications for specialist care and describe the referral process
* Assess the quality of services provided at a ANC
* Describe the usefulness of clinic records and returns
* Discuss the constraints in providing services at ANC and make suggestions to improve these services.
* Critically evaluate the services provided and make recommendations to improve the services

**Content areas**

* Organisation and flow of an antenatal clinic
* Antenatal investigations
* Supplementation in pregnancy
* Immunization in pregnancy
* Monitoring of the pregnancy in the ANC
* Indications for specialist care and the referral process
* Health promotion, education and antenatal counselling
* Pregnancy Record
* Clinic records and returns

Learning activities:

* Observe service delivery by following a pregnant female through the process of the ANC
* Provide health promotion and counselling to pregnant females and their family members

RECOMMENDED READING MATERIAL

* Conducting Antenatal Clinic, General circular no. 01-24/2004, Ministry of Health, Sri Lanka.
* Family Health Bureau, Annual Report on Family Health Sri Lanka -2007-2007, ‘Clinic Activities’, pp 14 -15, Ministry of Health, Colombo.

1. **Child Welfare Clinic (CWC)**

**Learning outcomes**

At the end of the visit, the student will be expected to:

* Describe and discuss the purpose of conducting CWCs
* List clinic procedures and services provided at the CWC giving reasons as to why these services are provided
* Describe and discuss the CHDR
* Describe the referral process
* Assess the quality of services provided at a CWC
* Describe the usefulness of clinic records and returns
* Discuss the constraints in providing services at CWC and make suggestions to improve these services.
* Critically evaluate the services provided and make recommendations to improve the services

**Content areas**

* Organisation of a child welfare clinic
* Services provided at a CWC
* Child Health Development Record and its use for healthcare providers and parents
* Components of the Growth Monitoring Programme
* Childhood immunization and the steps in the immunization procedure
* Infant screening
* Indications for specialist care and the referral process
* Health promotion and education for parents
* Indications for supplementation in childhood

Learning activities:

* Observe service delivery by following a child through the process of the CWC
* Provide health promotion and counselling to parents of pre-schoolers

RECOMMENDED READING MATERIAL

* Ministry of Health 2004, ‘Child Health Development Record’, Colombo.
* Ministry of Health 2007, ‘Child Health Development Record’, Colombo.
* Family Health Bureau, Integrated Nutrition Package, Ministry of Health, Colombo.
* Epidemiological Unit 2002, ‘Immunization Handbook’, Ministry of Health, Nutrition and Welfare, Colombo.
* Family Health Bureau, Annual Report on Family Health Sri Lanka -2007-2007, pp 15 -16, Ministry of Health, Colombo.

1. **District Hospital/Peripheral Unit**

**Learning outcomes**

At the end of the visit, the student will be expected to:

* Describe the services provided at a District Hospital/PU
* Describe the organisational structure of a DH/PU
* Demonstrate an understanding of how a DH/PU provides primary health care
* Demonstrate an understanding of the flow of health information from a DH/PU to the Medical Statistics unit
* Describe the registers and returns used to collect and disseminate health information at a hospital
* Critically evaluate the validity of health information generated at a hospital
* Discuss the role of DMO as a manager

**Content areas**

* Organisational structure of a DH/ PU
* Services provided at a DH/PU
* Role of the medical officer in the health information system and as a manager
* Collection of morbidity and mortality data from wards, coding, tabulation and preparation for transmission to the Medical Statistics Unit
* Indoor Morbidity and Mortality Register
* Indoor Morbidity and Mortality Return
* ICD coding

Learning activity: Observe diagnoses documented by the medical officers on BHTs and critically evaluate their validity

RECOMMENDED READING MATERIAL

* Park, K 2007, ‘Concept of Health and Disease: Disease classification’, in Park’s Text Book of Preventive and Social Medicine pp. 44- 45, Banarsidas Bhanot Publishers, Jabalpur, India
* Manual of Management of District Hospitals, Peripheral Units and Rural Hospital, 1994.
* Department of Health Services Sri Lanka, 2007, ‘Morbidity and mortality’, in Annual Health Bulletin, Medical Statistical Unit, Department of Health Services, Sri Lanka. Pp. 23 - 31.

1. **Anti-Filariasis Campaign**

**Learning outcomes**

At the end of the visit, the student will be expected to:

* Describe the objectives of the AFC and the need for a special programme
* Describe the services provided and their implementation
* Describe the management of patients in the community
* Describe entomological surveillance in relation to integrated vector control and its relevance
* Discuss constraints and limitations of the programme
* Critically evaluate the implementation of AFC and suggest ways to improve it

**Content areas**

* Objectives of the AFC and the need for a special programme
* Organisational structure
* Services provided and their implementation
* Management of patients in the community
* Constraints and limitations of the programme

RECOMMENDED READING MATERIAL

* Department of Health Services Sri Lanka, 2007, ‘Specialised Public Health Programmes: Filariasis’, in Annual Health Bulletin, Medical Statistical Unit, Department of Health Services, Sri Lanka. Pp. 65-67.

1. **School Health Programme**

**Learning outcomes**

At the end of the visit, the student will be expected to:

* Describe the stakeholders in school health
* Describe the main components of the school health programme and their purpose
* Describe process and organisation of a school medical inspection
* Describe the referral process
* Demonstrate an understanding of the role of SMI and school health clubs in health promotion in the delivery of primary health care services
* Describe a “health promoting school” and a “healthy school environment”
* Conduct a health promotional activity during an SMI
* Describe records and returns used in the school health programme
* Critically evaluate school health services and suggest ways to improve such services

**Content areas**

* School health services
* Planning and organisation of a SMI
* Services provided at a SMI
* Process of referral and follow up
* Role of the teachers and parents in the School Health Programme
* Health promoting schools and healthy school environment
* Student participation in School Health programme and school Health Clubs
* Records and returns used in the School Health programme

Learning activities:

* Observe the service delivery by following a school child through the process of the SMI
* Provide health promotion to school children

RECOMMENDED READING MATERIAL

* School Health Programme, General Circular no. 01/37/2007, Ministry of health.
* Family Health Bureau, Annual Report on Family Health Sri Lanka -2007-2007,’School Health Services’, pp 24 -27, Ministry of Health, Colombo.

1. **NPTC and CD**

**Learning outcomes**

At the end of the visit, the student will be expected to:

* Describe the objectives of the NPTC & CD and the need for a special programme
* Describe the services provided and their implementation
* Describe the role of a DTCO in provision of primary health care services
* Describe the management of patients in the community
* Describe the DOTS programme and its relevance
* Describe the registers maintained to facilitate service provision
* Discuss constraints and limitations of the programme
* Critically evaluate the implementation of DOTS programme and suggest ways to improve it

**Content areas**

* Objectives of the NPTC & CD and the need for a special programme
* Organisational structure
* Services provided and their implementation
* Management of patients in the community
* DOTS programme
* Registers maintained to facilitate service provision
* Constraints and limitations of the programme

RECOMMENDED READING MATERIAL

* National Programme for Tuberculosis Control and Chest Diseases 2005, ‘General Manual for Tuberculosis Control’, Ministry of Health, Sri Lanka.

1. **Factory visit**

**Learning outcomes**

At the end of the visit, the student will be expected to:

* Conduct a walk through survey
* Identify the occupational hazards in the factory visited
* Describe health, safety and welfare measures implemented in the factory you visited and critically review these measures
* Describe the notification process for occupational accidents and registers maintained to document occupational accidents
* Describe the procedures available for compensation of workers
* Make recommendations to improve occupational health in the factory that you visited
* Conduct a health promotion programme among the workers
* Describe the role of occupational health services in the provision of primary health care

**Content areas**

* Organisation of the factory and the workforce
* Materials used and the articles produced
* Health hazards related to the materials, the process and the setting
* Health problems of the workforce
* Health, safety and welfare measures already in place
* Notification of occupational accidents and registers maintained
* Benefits for workers including compensation
* Recommendations for improving occupational health
* Learning activity: Provide health promotion to factory workers

RECOMMENDED READING MATERIAL

* Herath HMSSD 1990, ‘Occupational health : An Introductory Course for Healthcare Workers’, pp 59-64, 85 – 95and122-130 , Ministry of Health, Colombo, Sri Lanka.

1. **Visit to the Correctional Centre for Youthful Offenders**

**Learning outcomes**

At the end of the visit, the student will be expected to:

* Describe the organisational structure of the centre
* Describe the types of inmates and their health problems
* Describe the service needs of the inmates
* Describe the services provided to the inmates
* Conduct a health promotion programme for the inmates
* Critically evaluate the services and suggest methods to improve them
* Demonstrate an understanding of the need for providing special services to target populations

**Content areas**

* Organisational structure of the centre
* Objectives of programmes conducted by the centre
* Legal provisions
* Past experiences on the effectiveness of the services provided
* Services provided
* Constraints and limitations of the programme

Learning activity: Provide health promotion and counselling to inmates of the centre

1. **St Joseph’s School for the Deaf, Ragama**

**Learning outcomes**

At the end of the visit, the student will be expected to:

* Describe the organisational structure of the school
* Describe the services available for children with speech and hearing impairment
* Describe the services provided to the children
* Describe the special training and equipment required to provide these services
* Describe the procedure of referring a child with speech and hearing impairment
* Critically evaluate the services provided and suggest methods to improve them
* Demonstrate an understanding of the need for providing special services to target populations

**Content areas**

* Organisational structure of the school
* Objectives of programmes conducted by the school
* Services provided and resource requirements
* Referral and follow up
* Constraints and limitations of the programme

1. **Infection Control Unit, CNTH, Ragama**

**Introduction**

**Learning outcomes**

At the end of the visit, the student will be expected to:

* Describe the role of the infection control unit in the hospital in the notification process and the control of communicable diseases
* Describe the role of the infection control unit in preventing hospital acquired infections and training of staff in infectious disease control
* Describe the role of the infection control unit in health promotion and education
* Describe the role of the hospital PHI and infection control nurses in providing primary health care services
* Describe the notification process in the hospital setting
* Describe the procedures of clinical waste disposal
* Critically evaluate the services provided and suggest methods to improve them

**Content areas**

* Organisational structure of the Infection Control Unit in the hospital
* Duties of staff of the infection control unit
* Services provided by the infection control unit
* Notification process in the hospital
* Clinical waste disposal
* Control of hospital acquired infections and infectious diseases in the hospital
* Training of personnel in infectious disease control

RECOMMENDED READING MATERIAL

* Hospital Infection Control Manual, Sri Lanka College of Microbiologists, 2005.

1. **Water Treatment Plant and Sewage Treatment Plant, Raddolugama**

**Learning outcomes**

At the end of the visit, the student will be expected to:

* Describe the importance of provision of safe water
* Describe the importance of hygienic sewage disposal
* Describe the process of water treatment
* Describe the process of sewage treatment

**Content areas**

* Household waste
* Safe water
* Water treatment
* Sewage treatment

RECOMMENDED READING MATERIAL

* Park, K 2007, ‘Environment and Health: Modern Sewage Treatment’, in Park’s Text Book of Preventive and Social Medicine pp. 618- 620, Banarsidas Bhanot Publishers, Jabalpur, India.
* Park, K 2007, ‘Environment and Health: Water Purification’, in Park’s Text Book of Preventive and Social Medicine pp. 572- 588, Banarsidas Bhanot Publishers, Jabalpur, India.
* Herath HMSSD 1990, ‘Occupational health : An Introductory Course for Healthcare Workers’, pp 96- 107, , Ministry of Health, Colombo, Sri Lanka.

**16. Community Dental Services**

**Learning outcomes**

At the end of the visit, the student will be expected to:

* Describe the oral health services with special reference to community services provided in Sri Lanka.
* Describe the common dental problems their risk factors and preventive strategies
* Discuss constraints and limitations of the services

**Content areas**

* Curative dental care services
* Preventive dental care services
* Common dental diseases and risk factors
* Prevention of dental diseases
* Dental referral system
* Constraints and limitations of the services
* Duties of Regional Dental Surgeon, School Dental Therapist and Community Dental Surgeon.

RECOMMENDED READING MATERIAL

* Department of Health Services Sri Lanka, 2007, ‘Dental Health Services’, in Annual Health Bulletin, Medical Statistical Unit, Department of Health Services, Sri Lanka. Pp. 32-34.
* Park, K 2007, ‘Communication for Health Education’, in Park’s Text Book of Preventive and Social Medicine pp. 706- 720, Banarsidas Bhanot Publishers, Jabalpur, India
* http://www.healthedu.gov.lk – Official website of Health Education Bureau, Sri Lanka.

Seminars

Two seminars will be conducted in the last week of the appointment to discuss the content covered during the clerkship and to clarify issues. Each seminar will consist of student presentations on topics given during the first week of the clerkship appointment. 2-3 students are expected to present each topic. Students are expected to get advice from academic staff members on the content of their presentations.

Attendance

80% attendance is compulsory for the field visits of the clerkship appointment. 100% attendance is compulsory for clerkship seminars. Students who fail to meet these requirements will not be eligible to sit the continuous assessment of the clerkship

Continuous Assessment

This assessment will consist of ten structured essay questions covering the appointment. The total mark obtained from this continuous assessment will contribute to 10% of the total marks of Unit 6.