

# **1. Introduction**

## **1.1 Why a Clinical Practice Guideline?**

The practice of Anaesthesia has changed remarkably over the years. The health institutions of the Ministry of Health have expanded considerably with a large number of health care personnel taking up different responsibilities working as a team caring for patients preventing mortality and morbidity. At the same time the expectations of the public too has gone up as they are more literate and have access to information regarding medical matters. The management options available for each clinical condition too have increased. Under these circumstances it is considered useful to have uniformly acceptable information to guide the health care personnel to help them to provide accepted level of good quality care.

This kind of guidance is most useful in anaesthetic emergencies where efficient team work is needed.

## **1.2 Who has developed this guideline?**

These guide lines have been developed by Members of the Committee on Guidelines of the Anaesthesiologists of Sri Lanka. The Committee had a wide ranging representation of very senior to junior anaesthetists who have worked in different parts of the country at different levels of hospitals to ensure that the guidelines are applicable throughout the country.

## **1.3 For whom is this guideline intended?**

It is intended to guide all anaesthetists in institutions where anaesthetic care is offered. Although it is targeted for the institutions under the Ministry of health, guidelines are encouraged to be used in any private health facility where availability of adequate facilities to provide safe anaesthesia is available.

## **1.4 How are the guidelines structured?**

These guidelines are recommended for use in Base, District General, Provincial and Teaching hospitals with or without specialist services.

**Recommendations made for both these categories are graded at different levels.**

Strongest is **Recommended** ..... **Grade X**  
Next level is **Desirable** ..... **Grade Y**  
The last is **Optional** ..... **Grade Z**

These are made considering the facilities available at different levels of hospitals.

**Recommendations coming under Recommended X are very basic and every effort should be made to adhere to them**

## **1.6 Comments by the President College of Anaesthesiologists of Sri Lanka**

The Sri Lanka Health Sector Development Project funded by the World Bank was started in March 2006 with the aim of enhancing health services in the country, and the College of Anaesthesiologists was selected to carry out this project in respect of anaesthetic services. Under this project clinical practice guidelines were formulated by the members of the committee on guidelines of the anaesthesiologists of Sri Lanka.

With expansion of anaesthetic services throughout the country it is not only timely but essential, that anaesthetists work in hospitals at different levels - Base, District General, Provincial and Teaching Hospitals be guided to provide uniformity of anaesthetic care. These guidelines will undoubtedly be of great benefit to all anaesthetists, especially to those anaesthetists working without consultant cover in peripheral hospitals.

My thanks to the leader of this project, Dr. Ranjen Fernando and his team of Consultants for their hard work and dedication.

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