

# Draft National Oral Health Policy for Sri Lanka

A Draft National Oral Health Policy (DNOHP) document has been formulated for Sri Lanka in order to adopt new strategies to improve oral health status of the people in this country while consolidating the previous achievements. This will be in line with the National Health Policy of the Ministry of Health (<http://www.health.gov.lk/HealthPolicy.htm>) and the objectives are as follows:

- To develop guidelines to be practiced by all categories of oral health care providers as a benchmark
- To encourage evidence-based approaches to reduce the oral disease burden of Sri Lankan population by age-specific strategies, common risk factor approach and maximum integration into existing public health care infrastructure
- To enhance the potential contribution of oral health care services for the quality of life of Sri Lankan population by improving their oral health status

The DNOHP consists of components such as: *Minimum levels of standards/Quality of care, Alternative funding mechanisms, Fostering Public Private Partnerships, Oral health promotion/oral health education: The integration of oral health in the wider health care delivery system to include enhanced synergies with health promotion, Oral Health Research, Mass media/Advertising, Management of Information Systems, Technology and equipment, Continuing Professional Development (CPD), Referral System and Human Resources.*

## **1. Minimum Level of care/quality of care:**

Agreed levels of minimum standard of care will be specified for curative, preventive and rehabilitative oral health care services provided at each level of the hierarchy of public health care institutions.

## **2. Alternative Financing Mechanisms**

Provision of comprehensive oral health care services absolutely free of charge at the point of delivery as offered by the public sector is increasingly being challenged by budgetary constraints. However, the state recognizes the need for provision of basic & emergency oral

health care services free of charge by the public sector. Appropriate cost recovery mechanisms should be attempted for advanced oral health care services.

### **3. Fostering Public Private Partnerships**

The state recognizes the importance of fostering public- private partnerships in delivery of dental care services by integrated approaches with governmental, private sector and other non-governmental agencies to facilitate greater coordination and regulation for evidence-based, cost effective and quality oral health care provision.

### **4. Oral Health Research**

The state recognizes oral health research as a priority area which will enhance the quality of life of Sri Lankan citizens. Moreover, time to time evaluations of the oral health research carried out in the country will be facilitated in order to utilize research findings for the benefit of the citizens.

### **5. Health Promotion and Health Education**

The state will actively promote health promotion and health education as a priority area in oral healthcare provision. Sufficient funds should be made available for the health promotional activities. Oral health **Formatted:** Font: Not Bold