

CandleAid Lanka

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KIDNEY DIALYSIS ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME

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On this 26th anniversary of CandleAid Lanka (formerly known as AFLAC International), it is with a great deal of gratitude and joy that we propose yet another initiative under our Health Programme. Currently we assist cancer patients and patients with other grave illnesses needing invasive procedures such as by-pass surgery, transplants, implants etc.

Introduction

In recent times the number of patients suffering from chronic kidney disease (CKD) has hugely grown across Sri Lanka. While those who have the means seek dialysis in private medical institutions, others depend on the free dialysis afforded by the national hospitals in the country. With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic and its numerous repercussions, hospitals have cut back the free dialysis given to patients in some cases from thrice weekly to once only. In view of this, patients are compelled to seek dialysis at private hospitals where each session can cost between LKR 7,000 to 9,000. Additionally, they also need to spend on transportation to and from hospital.

This need was addressed with CandleAid by a benevolent new donor who wished to assist such patients. CandleAid has independently recognised this need when addressing other health related requests for assistance. Like the above-mentioned donor, there are generous people who have the interest to support this cause, sometimes in memory of a dearly departed loved one who had succumbed to CKD.

Sourcing of Patients

CandleAid, through its network of coordinators, will source patients getting dialysed at private sector hospitals as a supplement to what is given free by the national hospitals. CandleAid will call for proper certification of the patient's need for dialysis from a registered medical practitioner and further obtain confirmation as to how many cycles are offered to such a patient free by the Government medical services. CandleAid will advertise this initiative on its website and among its representatives and network of donors, sponsors and well-wishers for purpose of funding.

Assistance to be rendered

In view of the high costs associated with dialysis, CandleAid will limit its donation to each patient once a month for an initial period of 6 months. Extension of the period will be evaluated on a case by case basis, and also depending on funds available for the purpose.

Wherever possible, CandleAid will endeavour to make the payment for dialysis direct to the respective hospital, failing which monies will be made available to the patient or a nominated person, who will be required to submit the relevant receipt in due course.

LKR 49,500 being part of an initial donation of LKR 180,000 (after 10% admin) from the donor mentioned above has been allocated to assist the first patient by donating LKR 8,250 p.m. for one round of dialysis for six months at Kings Hospital, Narahenpita. Her details are below.

Sujani & Jayanthilatha – This mother and daughter reside at Kothalawala, Kaduwela. Sujani (29) is a kidney patient awaiting cadaveric transplant surgery. Jayanthilatha came to CandleAid seeking help for her daughter's thrice-weekly dialysis. Since dialysis is not covered under CandleAid's health programmes, we explored other possibilities to assist them as they were facing grave challenges in their day-to-day existence.

The young patient Sujani had just got into the university when she was diagnosed with chronic kidney disease and since then her condition had deteriorated very rapidly. Since they have no means whatsoever to pay for a kidney, she is enrolled in the cadaveric programme.



Their income of LKR 18,000 is totally insufficient to meet their day-to-day expenses and the related costs of dialysis as well as the house rent of LKR 11,000 per month. Jayanthilatha's married son contributes towards their upkeep, but still their needs are many.

CandleAid gave them immense relief by undertaking to contribute the cost of their house rent for one year commencing December 2019.

In December 2020 when reviewing their status, we were informed that the thrice weekly dialysis is now cut down to two times. Of that too, only one session is given by the National Hospital every Monday free of charge. They get the other session from the King's Hospital, Narahenpita every Thursday and the charge is LKR 8,250 per session. Apart from the cost of dialysis, they need to hire a three-wheeler for each trip from Kaduwela and back paying LKR 1,200. Jayanthilatha inquired whether she could use the LKR 11,000 to cover these expenses instead of the rent money. Moreover, Sujani recently suffered a chest infection which needed hospitalization at the Welisara Chest Hospital. There are also many underlying health issues this young girl is facing.

While CandleAid will continue with the LKR 11,000 per month allocation, additionally, Sujani will be given another LKR 8,250 towards the cost of one round of dialysis under the newly established Kidney Dialysis Assistance Programme.

For more details please contact the following:

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"It is better by far to light a solitary candle than to curse the darkness"