



Environmental Protection Agency

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Operation Permit

Issued under the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana, the Environmental Protection (Amendment) Act, 2005, and the Environmental Protection (Authorisations) Regulations, 2000

Reference No.:	20170719- CNMCM
Fee:	Medium (C1) i.e. US\$500 per year
Fee Paid:	US\$1500 for Three (3) years (June, 2021 – May, 2024)
Addressee:	Dr. Carl Niamatali Chief Executive Officer Diamond Grove Medical & Palliative Care Center 685- 687 Section 'C' Block Y, Golden Grove East Bank Demerara
Activity:	Operation of a Medical Clinic



Dr. Carl Niamatali, trading and operating under the name, Diamond Grove Medical & Palliative Care Center, hereinafter referred to as the “Permit Holder”, is hereby authorised in accordance with the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, the Environmental Protection (Amendment) Act, 2005, and the Environmental Protection (Authorisations) Regulations, 2000, to Operate the Medical Clinic at 685- 687, Section ‘C’, Block Y, Golden Grove, East Bank Demerara, hereinafter referred to as the “Project”, in a manner indicated in the Application for Environmental Authorisation submitted on July 19, 2017, and subject to the terms and conditions set forth herein under the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana, existing and/or forthcoming Regulations made under the said Act, and/or any applicable laws, guidelines, best practices and standards relevant to this project.

The Permit Holder, His Servants, Agents and/or Sub- Contractors shall comply with the following Terms and Conditions for Operation:

1.0 OPERATION

- 1.1 Notify the Agency in writing and obtain its approval for **ANY** proposed changes in the Project at **least fourteen (14) days before making the change**. The notification shall contain a **description of the proposed change in operation**. It is not necessary to make such a notification if an **Application to vary** this permit has been submitted to the EPA, and the Application contains a description of the proposed change. In this condition ‘**change in operation**’ means a change in the

nature or functioning, or an extension of the installation, which may have consequences for the environment including but not limited to the following:

- i. Changes in construction, structure, or layout of the facility and all associated buildings.

- ii. Installation of new and/or changes to equipment, machine, apparatus, mechanism, system or technology serving the facility.

- iii. Any technology used or installed at the facility from which effluent may be discharged.

- iv. Any other circumstance or condition prescribed by Regulation 20(3) of the Environmental Protection (Authorisations) Regulations.

1.2 Employees shall be equipped with Personal Protective Equipment relevant to the occupational tasks during operation. These Personal Protective Equipment may include but not be limited to:

- i. Lab Coats
- ii. Gloves
- iii. Shoe Covers and Caps
- iv. Overalls

(Employees should at all times be well protected)

1.3 The ingress to and egress from the Project shall be cleared and freed of obstructions at all times.

1.4 A register of the types and quantities of hazardous materials managed at the Project shall be established and maintained. The registered information shall be summarized and shall be submitted to the Agency as a component of the **Annual Report**.

1.5 Hazardous materials shall be stored in accordance with the manufacturer's directions or Safety Data Sheet (SDS) instructions.

1.6 Safety Data Sheets for all hazardous materials shall be readily available and easily accessible at all times at the Project.

1.7 An Occupational Health and Safety Monitoring Schedule shall be established and submitted to the EPA for approval **by July 31, 2021**.

1.8 The Occupational Health and Safety Monitoring schedule shall address all safety inspections, testing and calibration of safety equipment and features implemented for hazard control, surveillance of the working environment or workers health and safety training and evacuation plan.

1.9 An Emergency Response Protocol/Procedure shall be established and submitted to the EPA for review and approval **by July 31, 2021**.

- 1.10 All personnel involved in the handling of Hazardous Materials and Infectious and Bio-hazardous Wastes shall be certified in Occupational, Safety, Health and Environmental Management. OSHE Certificates of employees shall be submitted as a component of the **Annual Report**.
- 1.11 Emergency spill cleanup kits shall be maintained at the facility for response to potential spills. Kits should contain absorbent materials, drain seals and other appropriate tools for clean-up. Spills should be cleaned-up by the Best Available Technology (BAT).
- 1.12 Guyana Fire Service Approval shall be maintained annually and shall be submitted as a component of the **Annual Report**.
- 1.13 The Project shall maintain fire prevention and control equipment in accordance with the Guyana Fire Service Approval. This may include a smoke detection and alarm system, fire extinguishers, fire hydrants or sprinkler systems as appropriate.

2.0 WATER QUALITY

Adhere to the provisions of the **Environmental Protection (Water Quality) Regulations, 2000**.

- 2.1 The direct discharge of untreated effluent into the environment is strictly prohibited.
- 2.2 Contaminated effluent from the Project shall be treated/decontaminated using bleach or hypochlorite solution before discharge to the septic sewage system.
- 2.3 Treated effluent shall be in accordance with the *Guyana National Bureau of Standards Interim Guidelines for Industrial Effluent Discharge into the Environment* whose limits are listed below:

Parameter	Daily Maximum Concentration	Units	Sample Type	Frequency of Analysis
pH	5.0 – 9.0	mg/L	Grab	Bi-annually
Temperature	40	°C	Grab	
BOD	<50	mg/L	Grab	
COD	<250	mg/L	Grab	
TSS	<50	mg/L	Grab	
N as HN ₃	<10	Mg/L	Grab	
P	<2	Mg/L	Grab	

CN Tol.	<1	Mg/L	Grab
Phenols	<0.5	Mg/L	Grab
Coliform	<400	MPN per 100mL	Grab

2.4 Grab samples of effluent prior to discharge into the septic sewage system shall be collected and processed by an accredited and certified laboratory.

2.5 Grab samples shall be taken at such time to be representative of the quality of the effluent discharged. The following information shall be recorded and submitted to the EPA in a **Bi- annual Water Quality Monitoring Report** for each suite of sampling done in accordance with this Permit:

- i. The exact place, date and time of sampling;
- ii. The person(s) who performed the sampling;
- iii. The results of all the analyses;
- iv. Copies of original laboratory analytical reports

2.6 The results from the analysis shall be submitted within **thirty (30) days** after the analysis was completed.

2.7 Any chemical spill that occurs during handling shall be immediately cleaned, as guided by the respective Safety Data Sheet and appropriately disposed to prevent discharges into any waterways.

3.0 WASTE MANAGEMENT

3.1 In accordance with the **Environmental Protection (Litter Enforcement) Regulations, 2013**, promote good sanitation and solid waste disposal practices on site. Covered garbage receptacles shall be placed upon impervious base at strategic locations, both within and outside facility.

3.2 Non-hazardous solid waste shall not be burnt on site. All solid waste shall be disposed at an approved Solid Waste Disposal Site, by an EPA Authorised Waste Disposal Company.

3.3 Good house-keeping, sanitary, and hygienic practices shall be maintained at all times. The facility's drains and surroundings shall be kept free of vegetation and litter.

3.4 Solid waste receptacles shall be secured when not in use.

3.5 Hazardous wastes including appliances, fluorescent lamps, pesticides, etc. shall not be disposed of in non-hazardous waste containers.

3.6 Waste collection areas shall be kept clean. Dry methods shall be used when cleaning

around waste handling and disposal areas (e.g. sweeping, use of absorbents).

4.0 HAZARDOUS, MEDICAL AND BIOHAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT

Adhere to the provisions of the Environmental Protection (Hazardous Waste Management) Regulations, 2000.

- 4.1 All waste mixed with medical waste shall be treated as medical waste.
- 4.2 All waste shall be identified and segregated at the point of generation. Medical, biohazardous and/or hazardous wastes should be segregated according to its category.
- 4.3 All Biohazardous Waste must be properly labeled and color coded. Labeling can include words such as “Infectious Substances”, “Bio Hazardous Waste” and “Bio Hazard”.
- 4.4 Biohazardous wastes consisting of human cultures and biomedical waste containing infectious agents and cultures shall be treated for disposal via incineration at a minimum furnace temperature of 850°C in accordance with the specifications of the incinerator at Memorial Gardens & Crematorium.
- 4.5 Putrescible medical waste shall be refrigerated at 40 °F (4° C) or below.
- 4.6 The disposal of sharps shall **NOT** incorporate cutting, breaking, bending or any other manipulation.
- 4.7 Used sharps shall be placed in containers that meet the following requirements:
 - i. Rigid;
 - ii. Puncture resistant;
 - iii. Impervious to moisture, leak and shatter proof;
 - iv. Displays the universal bio-hazard symbols and a clear label of its contents; and
 - v. Can be sealed, preferably with a self-closing lid and/or a lid that prevents persons removing sharps from the container.
- 4.8 Color coding must be done using the following specifications:

Waste Type	Color Coding
Human Anatomical	Red
Animal Waste	Red
Blood and Bodily Fluids	Red
Waste Sharps	Red
Microbiological Laboratory Waste	Red

- 4.9 The use of mercury based medical devices (e.g. thermometers and blood pressure devices) should be avoided and replaced with digital alternatives. In instances where mercury waste is generated, the waste should be segregated for disposal.
- 4.10 A Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for disposal of expired and recalled drugs shall be established and submitted to the EPA for approval by **August 31, 2021**.
- 4.11 All expired and recalled drugs shall be disposed in accordance with the EPA approved SOP outlined in **condition 4.10**.
- 4.12 Each disposal of expired and recalled drugs shall be recorded on a Waste Manifest Form and shall be submitted as a component of the **Annual Report**.
- 4.13 Biohazardous waste containers must adhere to the following particulars of appropriate labeling:
- i. Name (location);
 - ii. Date;
 - iii. Type of Waste;
 - iv. List of Content; and
 - v. Quantity.
- 4.14 The Biohazardous Waste Storage areas shall be clearly labeled, secured and well illuminated when not in use. The following warning signs shall be clearly posted:
- i. "Biohazardous Waste Storage Area"
 - ii. Danger- "Authorized Personnel Only"
 - iii. No Smoking
 - iv. No Eating or Drinking
- 4.15 The Biohazardous waste storage area shall be maintained in accordance to the following conditions:
- 4.15.1 The area shall be banded to provide 100% containment
 - 4.15.2 The area must be secure and access restricted to authorised personnel only.
 - 4.15.3 Warning signs and biohazard symbols must be posted on the facility.
 - 4.15.4 The area should have a hard, impermeable floor with drainage, and designed to withstand cleaning/disinfection, without cracking, breaking or other damage which would prevent effective disinfection.
 - 4.15.5 The area should have easy access for waste collection vehicles.
 - 4.15.6 The area must be protected from contamination and contact with water, rain, wind, and animals. Measures should be taken to ensure the area does not become a breeding ground for vermin.
- 4.16 Storage of Biohazardous waste should **not exceed thirty (30) days**. The thirty day period commences when the first item is placed into the designated storage container.



4.17 All Biohazardous waste shall be collected, treated and disposed of by an EPA authorised waste disposal facility. All biohazardous waste treatment and disposal shall be documented on a **Waste Manifest Form** which must be submitted to the EPA as a component of the **Annual Report**.

5.0 COMPLIANCE MONITORING AND REPORTING

5.1 Notify the Environmental Protection Agency **within one (1) hour** of the occurrence of any environmental emergencies (e.g. oil spills, hazardous materials/wastes spill, sudden onset disaster, natural, technological or human-induced factors that cause or threaten to cause severe environmental damage as well as harm to human health or livelihood).

5.2 Make all employees, and third parties under your direction, aware of the conditions of the Environmental Authorisation and provide training on good environmental practices. Annual training schedule shall be submitted in the **Annual Report**.

5.3 Monitor the implementation of the conditions of this Permit, insofar as they involve adherence by your employees.

5.4 Notify the Agency in writing of any change of name or ownership of the Permit Holder's facility within **thirty (30) days** after the change occurs.

5.5 Notify the Agency **within twenty-one (21) days** in event of death, bankruptcy, liquidation or receivership of the Permit Holder or if the Company becomes a party to an amalgamation.

5.6 Maintain and submit to the Agency records of the type, composition and quantity of contaminant released (i.e. any solid, liquid, gas, odour, sound, vibration, radiation, heat or combination of any of them).

5.7 Submit an **Annual Report** to the EPA on the progress of the operation and compliance with the conditions under which this Permit was granted on or before **March 31, each year**.

5.8 Report to the Agency any non-compliance(s) with the Operation Permit:

i. Within **twenty-four (24) hours** of the time the Holder of the Environmental Authorisation for Operation becomes aware of the non-compliance, the anticipated manner in which it may endanger human health or the environment.

ii. Within **seventy-two (72) hours**, submit to the Agency a written report containing a description of the non-compliance, its cause and the period of non-compliance including exact dates and time.

iii. Submit a report to the Agency indicating the reasons and the anticipated time it is expected to continue if the non-compliance has not been corrected.

- 5.9 Comply with any lawful directions given by the EPA from time-to-time in furtherance of the implementation of any international or other obligation for the environmental protection of Guyana.
- 5.10 It is the responsibility of the Permit Holder to ensure the permitted activity and premises are secured and that all practicable steps necessary to prevent fires, explosions, leaks or suspected leaks and spills at the permitted premises are taken.

6.0 INSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY/ LIABILITIES

- 6.1 The EPA reserves the right to conduct regular inspections of the Permit Holder's operation as part of its monitoring and enforcement requirements under the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, the Environmental Protection (Amendment) Act, 2005, and the Environmental Protection Regulations, 2000.
- 6.2 The EPA reserves the right to review/amend the conditions attached to this Permit which also includes the review and/or amendment of permit fees in consideration of any changes in fee schedule as determined by the Agency for projects of this nature.
- 6.3 The Permit Holder, His Servants, Agents and/or Sub-Contractors shall at all times, allow entry to the permitted facility to any Officer designated by the EPA for the purposes of conducting inspections or any other legitimate business of the Agency. Pursuant to s.38 of the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana, it is an offence to assault, obstruct or hinder an authorised person in the execution of his/her duty under the said Act or its Regulations and the Permit Holder shall be liable to penalties prescribed under paragraph (c) of the Fifth Schedule for doing so.
- 6.4 The EPA shall have the right to cancel or suspend this Permit for breach of any of the terms and conditions contained herein.
- 6.5 The Permit Holder, his Servants and/or Agents shall be strictly jointly and severally liable as follows:
- a. For any activity that causes, or is likely to cause pollution of the environment, unless the person takes all reasonable and practicable measures to prevent or minimise any resulting adverse effect, in accordance with Section 19(1)(a) of the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana.
 - b. For any activity which results in the discharge, release or entry into the environment of any contaminant in any amount, concentration or level in excess of that prescribed by the regulations or stipulated by this Permit, in accordance with Section 19(1)(b) of the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05 Laws of Guyana.

- c. The discharge or release of contaminants, such as hydraulic fluids, lubricants, fuel, or other industrial fluids relative to the Project, which are not stipulated herein, or by Regulations under the Environmental Protection Act, are strictly prohibited. Any such discharge or release shall be a violation of Section 19(1)(b) of the Environmental Protection Act.
 - d. For the compensation of any Party who suffers any loss or damage as a result of the project. (s.19(3)(e)) Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana.
 - e. For any material or serious environmental harm caused by pollution of the environment, whether intentionally or recklessly, in accordance with section 39 (1), (2), (3) and (4) of the Environmental Protection Act, 20:05, Laws of Guyana.
 - f. Any gross negligence or wilful misconduct resulting in serious risk, or adverse effects to the marine environment, biodiversity, protected species and natural habitat with respect to any release or discharge, spill, contaminant fluids, oil, or lubricants from any facilities permitted under this project.
 - g. For the payment of all costs and expenses related to the assessment of damage and investigations required, as result of any pollution incidents attributable to the activity for which this Permit has been issued.
- 6.6 The Agency (EPA) shall notify the Permit Holder immediately of any written claim or notice sent by any Complainant seeking loss or damage for negligence as a result of the Permit Holder's lack of due care and diligence.
- 6.7 Should the Permit Holder contravene or is likely to contravene any condition of this Permit, the Agency (EPA) may serve him an enforcement notice in accordance with s. 26 of the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana.
- 6.8 Where it appears to the Agency that the Permit Holder is engaged in any activity that may pose serious threat to natural resources or serious pollution of the Environment or any damage to public health, issue to the Permit Holder a Prohibition Notice, which may include an order to immediately cease the offending activity. See: s. 27 of the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana.
- 6.9 This Operation Permit is effective for the period stipulated herein; **June 2021 to May 2024.**
- 6.10 This Operation Permit shall remain valid until **May 31, 2024**, unless otherwise suspended, cancelled, modified or varied, in accordance with the provisions of this Permit or the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana, Environmental Protection (Amendment) Act, 2005, and the Environmental Protection (Authorisations) Regulations, 2000.

- 6.11 This Permit must be renewed by submitting a completed Renewed Application Form for Environmental Authorisation (Operation Permit) to the Agency at least six months before this Permit expires, that is, no later than **November 30, 2023**.
- 6.12 Any late submission of renewal application (s) after the specified date as stated above, shall require the Permit Holder to pay, in addition to renewal fee, a late penalty fee (accruing at the time such obligation was first owed for renewal) at a rate of **two thousand dollars (GY\$2,000.00) per every business day late, until such renewal application is submitted to the Agency**, without prejudice to any other rights of the Permit Holder in connection therewith.
- 6.13 Failure to comply with the requirements of this Permit or with applicable laws and regulations, whether existing or forthcoming, shall render the Permit Holder liable to prosecution and to penalties, inclusive of civil penalties, injunctive relief and imprisonment, as prescribed under the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana, the Environmental Protection Regulations and other applicable.

Signed by  on behalf of the Environmental Protection Agency.

Ms. Sharifah Razack
Executive Director (Ag.)

Date 2021.06.04

I hereby accept the above terms and conditions upon which this Operation Permit is granted and agree to abide by the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, the Environmental Protection (Amendment) Act, 2005, and the Environmental Protection (Authorisations) Regulations, 2000, and any existing or forthcoming regulations, guidelines, best practices and standards made under this Act.

NAME:	CARL NIAYATALL
DATE:	18 June 2021
SIGNATURE:	Carl Niayatall
DESIGNATION:	CEO

