

**The Health Law**  
**Umm – AL qura issue No. (3897) dated 17/4/1423H(1)**

**Article 1**

The Following words and expressions shall have the meanings stated opposite each unless the context dictates otherwise :

1- Public Health : An integrated Comprehensive Perspective for the Society, family, and individual health, and the environmental, social, economical, and genetic, effects thereto.

2- Health Care : Preventive, therapeutic and rehabilitation services concerned with the individual and community health with the primary, secondary and specialized levels thereof.

3- Primary Health Care : means the following :-

a- Propagating health awareness at the individual, family and society levels around the problems and risks threatening the health and the method of prevention thereof, and endeavoring to change behavior patterns that may lead to disease.

b- Working with the related authorities to monitor environment health (rectification), purity of drinking water and food, caring for sound healthy nutrition and propagating health awareness thereof.

c- Integrated maternity and child health care.

d- Vaccination against infectious diseases.

e- Combating, endemic parasitic and infectious diseases and controlling outbreak of such diseases.

f- Appropriate diagnosis and treatment of common diseases, injuries and performing natural deliveries

g- Provision of basic medications.

4- Secondary Health Care : Health Care provided by public general hospitals and specialized doctors.

5- Third, Specialized or referral Health care : Health care provided by hospitals specialized in certain diseases that require advanced apparatus and highly specialized doctors with sufficient experience and skill.

6- Provision of Health care : Guarantee the availability of health care without

such necessarily meaning means that the state shall directly provide or finance such care, save what is stipulated by the provisions of this Law.

7- Minister : The Minister of Health.

8- Ministry : The Ministry of Health.

9- Board : Health Services Board.

## **Article 2**

This Law aims at guaranteeing the availability and organization of the integrated comprehensive health care for all the inhabitants in a fair and easy manner.

## **Article 3**

The state shall seek (endeavor) to provide health care, and shall care for the society public health in a manner that guarantees living in a good, healthy environment, and such shall particularly include :-

- 1- Safety and purity of drinking water.
- 2- Safety and purification of sanitary sewage.
- 3- Safety of food in circulation.
- 4- Safety of medications, drugs, and medical equipage in circulation and supervision of the use thereof.
- 5- Protecting the society from the risks of narcotics and intoxicants.
- 6- Protecting the country from epidemics.
- 7- Preserving environment from risks of various kinds of pollution.
- 8- Setting sanitary conditions for using public places.
- 9- Propagation of health awareness among inhabitants.

## **Article 4**

The State shall provide the following health care services for the citizens in the way organized by the same.

- 1- Maternity and infancy care.
- 2- Vaccination programs.
- 3- Health care for male and female students.

- 5- Health care for accidents, emergencies, and catastrophes.
- 5- Combating epidemic and infectious diseases.
- 7- Treatment of incurable diseases such as tumor removal, organs transplantation, and dialysis.
- 8- Psycho therapy.
- 9- Other elements of Primary health care.

## **Article 5**

The Ministry shall be the responsible authority for the provision of health care and shall in particular :-

- 1- guarantee provision of primary health care services.
- 2- Provide health care services in hospitals and in specialized and secondary therapeutic centers.
- 3- Prepare the essential and health statistics, conduct and analyze scientific research and make use thereof.
- 4- Set health strategy and the necessary plans to provide and promote health care and distribute such in a manner that makes it available for all the individuals of the society.
- 5- Setting programs for preparation of the labor forces in medical field and promotion thereof in collaboration with the relevant authorities.
- 6- Setting instructions and conditions regarding prevention of entering and outbreak of quarantine, diseases, epidemic and infections diseases report such and endeavor to combat or eradicate such with the application of preventive therapeutic and measures.
- 7- Organizing and monitoring circulation of drugs and medications in a manner that insures and guarantees their availability, validity, rational use, and suitability of prices.
- 8- Setting the necessary controls and conditions for licensing the private (non-governmental) health institutions and the employees therein, supervising their activity and the quality of its performance.
- 9- Setting the quality control rules and standards for health care and guaranteeing the application thereof.
- 10- Verifying the correct practice of medical professions and abidance of the employees adherence to by- the rules and ethics of the profession.

11- Seeking to set rules organizing the conducting of the therapeutic and medical experiments and research.

12- Setting plans and programs for propagation of comprehensive health education at the society level.

13- Cooperation and coordination with countries, international and regional organizations in the fields of public health and health care.

#### **Article 6**

The state shall endeavor, through the Ministry, to provide an integrated network of health care services covering all areas of the Kingdom and inclusive of specialized, secondary, and primary levels of health care; and the Ministry shall, in collaboration with the Areas Councils, determine the needs, locations, and levels of such care, according to the demographic and geographical position and the patterns of the diseases prevailing in the area.

#### **Article 7**

Every Directorate General of health affairs shall be given financial and administrative powers that enable it to perform the duties vested on it in an effective manner and the Ministry shall, in its budget, consider the pertinent needs of each Area according to the existence of health facilities therein, and its number of population, and every hospital shall get the financial appropriations it needs.

#### **Article 8**

The Directorate General of Health Affairs shall execute and implement plans and programs, set by the Ministry, in the Area, and the same shall in particular undertake the following responsibilities :-

1- Insure the availability of health care programs to cover the needs of the Area.

2- Running and operating health facilities affiliated to the Ministry.

3- Licensing to the private medical facilities and the employees therein in accordance with the requirements and conditions set by the Ministry, and monitoring the quality in such control facilities.

4- Preparing vital and health statistics, and conducting studies and research at the Area level.

5- setting and executing medical education programs continuously, and training the employees in the medical facilities in the Area, in coordination with the Ministry and other health sectors.

6- Coordination and cooperation with governmental and nongovernmental medical institutions, and with other health directorates.

7- Executing plans and programs for the propagation of comprehensive health education at the Area level.

#### **Article 9**

1- Health centers affiliated to the Ministry, other governmental authorities, and private sector shall provide preventive, first aid, therapeutic and rehabilitating services, and referring cases to the hospitals and therapeutic specialized centers when necessary.

2- The Executive regulation shall enumerate (list) the competences of such centers in detail, the rules organizing their work, their relations to the hospitals, referral procedures, and issuance of the medical reports.

#### **Article 10**

With no prejudice to the provisions of Article (4), health care services shall be financed as follows :-

1- The State General budget.

2- Revenues of the Cooperative medical insurance.

3- Endowment, donations, bequests, legacies and others.

Basis and standards by virtue of which test and examination of methods of financing the services presented by different health facilities and the organization of easement thereof shall be by a decision of the Council of Ministers based on a proposal of the Minister.

#### **Article 11**

The ownership of some Ministry hospitals may, by a decision of the Council of Ministers based on the proposal of the Minister, be transferred to the private sector.

#### **Article 12**

The Ministry shall seek to achieve the following :-

1- Providing education and training for the members of the medical team working therein through coordination with the relevant authorities.

2- Verifying the existence of the recognized standard of education and training of the applicants for license or re- license.

The Saudi Authority for Medical specialties shall determine the required standards for education and training.

#### **Article 13**

Health care shall be provided to for non- Saudis according to the Cooperative Health Insurance Law and the Executive Regulation thereof.

#### **Article 14**

Health care shall be provided to for pilgrims during the time of pilgrimage (Haj) in accordance with a regulation to be set by the Minister.

#### **Article 15**

The Ministry is the responsible authority for the enforcement of this Law in whatsoever does not fall under the jurisdictions of another authority.

#### **Article 16**

a- A board cited as Medical Services Board shall be established, chaired by the Minister, and membership of :-

- 1- A representative from the Ministry to be nominated by the Minister.
- 2- Representatives of Medical Services at the National Guard presidency, Ministry of Defense and Aviation, Ministry of Interior, King Faisal specialized hospital, and the research center, all of them shall be nominated by their authorities.
- 3- Two of the Health Faculties Deans to be nominated by the Minister of Higher Education.
- 4- Two representatives representing the private sector to be nominated by the Saudi Chambers of Commerce and Industry Board.
- 5- A representative of the Saudi Authority for Medical Specialties to be nominated by the Authority.
- 6- A representative of the Saudi Red Crescent Society nominated by the Society.
- 7- A representative of the Health Insurance Board to be nominated by the Board.

b- Members of the Board shall be appointed by a decision of the Council of Ministers for the period of three years renewable for only two terms; the scale of the Council members representing governmental authorities shall not be less than scale (12).

c- The Board may invite delegates, experts, or specialists to attend its sessions and they shall have the right to discuss but not the right to vote.

d- The Board session shall not be deemed legal save by the attendance of at least two thirds of the members, and the Board decisions shall be issued by the majority of the attending members and in case of evenness the chairman shall outweigh; and the

decisions of the Board, after being sanctioned by the Prime Minister, shall be deemed binding to the health sectors.

e- The Board shall set an internal regulation for the conduct of its functions.

f- The amount and source of the remunerations of the Board Chairman and members shall be determined by a decision by the Council of Ministers based on the proposal of the Minister.

## **Article 17**

The Board shall have jurisdiction in the following :-

a- Preparing health care strategy in the Kingdom as a prelude to sanctioning by the Council of Ministers.

b- Setting the appropriate organization to operate the hospitals managed by the Ministry and other governmental Authorities in order to be managed according to the economic management basis (Market bases), performance and quality control standards.

c- Setting and approving the coordination and integration policy among all the authorities concerned with the provision of health care and in the following fields in particular:

1- Specialized, secondary, and primary health care services.

2- Ambulance and medical evacuation services.

3- Referral of patients to different health authorities.

4- Insuring the availability of medication, drugs, medical apparatus and equipage and the optimum use thereof.

5- Educating, training, and recruiting the labor force in the medical field.

6- Conducting medical studies and research.

7- Providing health care for the pilgrims.

8- Propagating health education among the inhabitants.

9- Promoting environment health.

10- Exchanging experiences of the specialists among the various medical authorities.

d- Appointment of a secretary general based on the Minister nomination and in accordance with the Civil Service Law.

e- Setting the necessary rules to reward the experts, whom the Board seek their help, in coordination with The Ministry of Finance and National Economy.

**Article 18**

The Minister shall issue the executive regulation of this law within one year of the date of its publication.

**Article 19**

This Law shall be published in the official Gazette, and shall come into force after ninety (90) days of its publication, and shall supersede whatever provisions in conflict with it.

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(1) 8 Jul 2001