



**Bureau of Experts at the Council of Ministers
Official Translation Department**

Health Law

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NOTE:

The translation of Saudi laws takes the following into consideration:

- Words used in the singular form include the plural and vice versa.
- Words used in the masculine form include the feminine.
- Words used in the present tense include the present as well as the future.
- The word “person” or “persons” and their related pronouns (he, his, him, they, their, them) refer to a natural and legal person.



Health Law

Article 1

In this Law, the following words and phrases shall have the meanings assigned thereto, unless the context requires otherwise:

1. **Public Health:** A comprehensive concept that is concerned with the general health of the individual, family, and community, including the environmental, social, economic, and hereditary effects thereon.
2. **Healthcare:** Preventive, curative, and rehabilitative services provided to the individual and the community at the primary, secondary, and specialist levels.
3. **Primary Healthcare:** It includes the following:
 - a) Raising awareness among individuals, families, and the community regarding health-related problems and risks and regarding preventive measures, as well as promoting healthy lifestyles.
 - b) Working with relevant agencies in monitoring environmental sanitation and the safety of food and drinking water as well as promoting and raising awareness on healthy nutritional practices.
 - c) Providing comprehensive maternal and child healthcare.
 - d) Immunizing against communicable diseases.
 - e) Combating endemic, parasitic, and communicable diseases and containing their spread.
 - f) Diagnosing and providing proper treatment of prevalent diseases and injuries, as well as providing natural childbirths.
 - g) Providing essential medicines.
4. **Secondary Healthcare:** Healthcare provided by general hospitals and specialist physicians.
5. **Tertiary, Specialized, or Referral Healthcare:** Healthcare provided by specialized hospitals and that requires advanced equipment and highly specialized and experienced physicians.
6. **Healthcare Provision:** Ensuring the availability of healthcare, without necessarily being directly provided or funded by the State, except as stipulated in this Law.
7. **Minister:** Minister of Health.
8. **Ministry:** Ministry of Health.
9. **Council:** Saudi Health Council.

Article 2

This Law aims to regulate and ensure the provision of comprehensive and integrated healthcare for the entire population in an equitable and accessible manner.

Article 3

The State shall endeavor to provide healthcare and attend to public health to ensure living in a healthy and safe environment. It shall, in particular:



1. ensure the safety and potability of drinking water;
2. ensure the safety of sewage and treatment thereof;
3. ensure the safety of circulated food products;
4. ensure the safety of circulated medicines, drugs, and medical supplies, and monitor the use thereof;
5. protect the community from the effects of narcotics and intoxicants;
6. protect the country from epidemics;
7. protect the environment from the threats of various types of pollution;
8. set health requirements for the use of public areas.
9. Promoting health awareness among the public.

Article 4

The State shall provide its citizens with the following healthcare services in the manner it deems fit:

1. Maternal and child healthcare.
1 bis. Women's health programs.
2. Immunization programs.
3. Healthcare for the disabled and elderly.
4. Healthcare for students.
5. Healthcare in cases of accidents, emergencies, and disasters.
6. Combating communicable and epidemic diseases.
7. Treatment of incurable diseases such as tumor removal, organ transplantation, and dialysis.
8. Mental healthcare.
9. Other primary healthcare services.

Article 5

The Ministry shall be the entity responsible for providing healthcare. It shall, in particular, undertake the following:

1. Ensuring the provision of primary healthcare services.
2. Providing healthcare services in hospitals and in secondary and specialized treatment centers.
3. Preparing health statistics and biostatistics and conducting studies and research.
4. Setting health strategies and policies necessary for the development of healthcare services to ensure fair distribution and that all members of the community have access thereto.
5. Setting and developing training programs for health professionals in cooperation with the relevant agencies.
6. Setting the instructions and requirements necessary for the prevention and reporting of communicable, epidemic, and quarantinable diseases; seeking to eradicate them; and implementing preventive and curative measures.
7. Regulating and controlling the circulation of medication to ensure availability, proper use, and fair pricing.
8. Setting rules and requirements for licensing private health institutions and their employees as well as monitoring the activities and performance of such institutions.



9. Setting rules and criteria for healthcare quality control and ensuring implementation thereof.
10. Ensuring proper practice of health professions and the compliance of health professionals with the rules and ethics of the profession.
11. Setting regulatory rules for conducting medical and pharmaceutical studies and experiments.
12. Setting plans and programs to raise comprehensive health awareness within the community.
- 12 bis. Setting a national policy for women's health and the plans necessary for its implementation and development in coordination with the relevant agencies.
13. Cooperating and coordinating with other countries as well as with regional and international organizations in the field of public health and healthcare.

Article 6

The State shall, through the Ministry, endeavor to provide an integrated network of primary, secondary, and specialized healthcare services to all provinces of the Kingdom. The Ministry shall, in cooperation with provincial councils, determine the demands, locations, and levels of healthcare according to the provinces' geographic and demographic conditions as well as prevalent diseases therein.

Article 7

Each general directorate of health affairs shall have the administrative and financial powers necessary for carrying out its duties. The Ministry shall, within its budget, take into consideration the needs of each province according to available health facilities and population. Each hospital shall be allocated the funds it requires.

Article 8

The General Directorate of Health Affairs shall implement the health plans and programs set by the Ministry for each province, and shall, in particular, be responsible for the following:

1. Ensuring the availability of healthcare programs to cover the needs of the province.
2. Managing and operating the Ministry's health facilities.
3. Licensing private health facilities and their employees in accordance with the Ministry's requirements and conditions; and monitoring the quality of such facilities.
4. Preparing health statistics and biostatistics as well as conducting studies and research at the provincial level.
5. Setting medical education programs continuously and training health professionals in provincial health facilities, in coordination with the Ministry and other health sectors.
6. Coordinating and cooperating with government and private health institutions and with other health directorates.



7. Implementing plans and programs to raise comprehensive health awareness at the provincial level.

Article 9

1. Health centers of the Ministry and other government agencies and those of the private sector shall provide preventive, emergency, treatment, and rehabilitative services, and shall, if the need arises, refer cases to hospitals and specialized treatment centers.
2. The Implementing Regulations shall specify the specialties of said centers and set the regulatory rules for their work, their relations with hospitals, referral procedures, and issuance of medical reports.

Article 10

Without prejudice to the provisions of Article 4 of this Law, the financial resources for funding healthcare services shall be as follows:

1. Allocations in the State budget.
 2. Revenues of the Cooperative Health Insurance.
 3. Endowments, gifts, donations, bequests, and the like.
- The Council of Ministers shall, upon a recommendation by the Minister, determine the bases and criteria for funding the services provided by health facilities, and regulate the right to benefit from such services.

Article 11

The Council of Ministers may, upon a recommendation by the Minister, transfer the ownership of some Ministry hospitals to the private sector.

Article 12

The Ministry shall:

1. provide education and training to its health professionals in coordination with the relevant agencies; and
2. ensure that the applicants for licensing or re-licensing meet the recognized standards of education and training.

The Saudi Commission for Health Specialties shall determine the criteria required for education and training.

Article 13

Healthcare shall be provided to non-Saudis in accordance with the Cooperative Health Insurance Law and its Implementing Regulations.

Article 14

Healthcare shall be provided to pilgrims during Hajj season in accordance with regulations issued by the Minister.



Article 15

Without prejudice to the jurisdiction of other agencies, the Ministry shall be in charge of the implementation of this Law.

Article 16

A. A council named the Saudi Health Council shall be established under the chairmanship of the Minister and shall comprise the following members:

1. The General Director of the Armed Forces Medical Services.
2. The Executive General Director for Medical Affairs at the Ministry of National Guard.
3. The General Director of the Medical Services at the Ministry of Interior.
4. A representative from the Ministry named by the Minister.
5. Two representatives from the Ministry of Education named by the Minister of Education.
6. A representative from the Ministry of Finance named by the Minister of Finance.
7. Two representatives from the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development named by the Minister of Human Resources and Social Development.
8. A representative from the Ministry of Economy and Planning named by the Minister of Economy and Planning.
9. The General Supervisor of King Faisal Specialist Hospital and Research Center.
10. The Executive Director of the Saudi Food and Drug Authority.
11. President of the Saudi Red Crescent Authority.
12. A dean from one of the health colleges named by the Minister of Education.
13. The Secretary General of the Saudi Commission for Health Specialties.
14. The Secretary General of the Council of Health Insurance.
15. Two representatives from the private health sector selected by the Federation of Saudi Chambers in coordination with the Chairman of the Council.
16. The Executive Director of the Public Health Authority.

B. Council members referred to in paragraph (a)(4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 12, and 15) of this Article shall be appointed pursuant to a resolution by the Council of Ministers for a term of three years, renewable twice. The rank of representatives of government agencies shall not be lower than Grade 15, or its equivalent.

C. The Council may invite representatives, experts, and specialists to attend its meetings in a non-voting capacity.

D. A Council meeting shall only be valid if attended by at least two-thirds of its members. Council decisions shall be passed by the majority vote of attending



- members. In case of a tie, the Chairman shall have the casting vote. Council decisions shall be binding to health sectors upon the approval of the Prime Minister and shall be communicated to such sectors for implementation.
- E. The Council shall set the bylaws governing its work.
 - F. Remuneration of the Council Chairman and members and the source thereof shall be determined pursuant to a Council of Ministers' resolution, upon a recommendation by the Minister.
 - G. The Council shall have a legal personality and an independent budget. Disbursement from the budget shall be made pursuant to decisions issued by the Council, the Chairman, or the Secretary General, in accordance with this Law. The regulations referred to in Article 17(I) of this Law shall determine the administrative and financial powers that govern the work procedures of the Council and its Secretariat.
 - H. The Council shall have a general secretariat located in the City of Riyadh. A secretary general of a rank not lower than Grade 15 or its equivalent shall be the head of the Secretariat and shall report directly to the Chairman of the Council. The Secretariat shall have a sufficient number of staff members and specialists in relevant fields. The regulations referred to in Article 17(I) of this Law shall determine the functions and the organizational structure of the Secretariat.
 - I. The Council shall, in accordance with the best health practices, create a regulatory and professional environment to regulate health services and ensure their availability in the Kingdom's provinces, and shall promote synergy among all health service providers.

Article 17

The Council shall undertake the following:

- a) Preparing the Kingdom's Healthcare Strategy, which shall be approved by the Council of Ministers.
- b) Developing a system for operating hospitals that are managed by the Ministry or other government agencies, in accordance with efficient management principles and performance and quality control criteria.
- c) Setting an appropriate policy for coordination and cooperation between all healthcare service providers, specifically in the following areas:
 - 1. Primary, secondary, and specialized healthcare services.
 - 2. Emergency and medical evacuation services.
 - 3. Referral of patients.
 - 4. Provision of medicines and medical equipment and supplies, as well as the optimal use thereof.
 - 5. Education, training, and employment of health professionals.
 - 6. Conducting health studies and research.
 - 7. Provision of healthcare services to pilgrims.
 - 8. Promoting health awareness among the public.
 - 9. Development of environmental health.
 - 10. Exchange of expertise of specialists between the various health institutions.
- d) Appointing a secretary general for the Council, upon nomination by the Minister and in accordance with the Civil Service Law.



- e) Setting the necessary rules for determining the remuneration of experts who provide assistance, in coordination with the Ministry of Finance.
- f) Assessing and reviewing health policies and plans periodically.
- g) Assessing and reviewing health services; determining the needs of the health sector; adopting the recommendations on the distribution of various health services in the Kingdom's provinces; and enhancing health services.
- h) Implementing the policies, plans, programs, and projects provided for in the Kingdom's Healthcare Strategy and overcoming any obstacles thereto in coordination with the relevant agencies.
- i) Coordinating with government agencies that provide health services in establishing hospitals and in implementing health projects and specialized health programs.
- j) Reviewing laws relating to health services and proposing amendments thereto.
- k) Forming specialized committees at the Secretariat or the Kingdom's provinces to support the Council in the performance of its duties and determining their functions and work procedures as well as the rights and duties of their members.
- l) Issuing the Council's regulatory, administrative, and financial regulations in agreement with the Ministry of Finance, and adopting the organizational structure of the Secretariat in coordination with the secretariat of the Higher Commission for Administrative Organization.

Article 18

The Minister shall issue the Implementing Regulations of this Law within one year from the date of its publication.

Article 19

This Law shall be published in the Official Gazette. It shall enter into force 90 days following the date of its publication, and shall repeal all provisions conflicting therewith.