

Law No. 7 of 1996 Organizing Medical Treatment & Health Services within the State 7 / 1996

Number of Articles: 12



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We, Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani, the Emir of the State of Qatar;
Having perused the Amended Provisional Constitution, particularly Articles 23, 34 & 51 thereof; Law No. 2 of 1962 regulating the general fiscal policy in Qatar;
Decree Law No. 6 of 1965 organizing medical treatment within the State, and its amending laws;
Law No. 8 of 1989 concerning the treatment of the citizens of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states, at the health centers, clinics and public hospitals as Qatari citizens;
Decree Law No. 10 of 1993 organizing the Ministry of Health and determining its functions;
Decree No. 35 of 1979 concerning Hamad Medical Corporation, as amended by Decree No. 38 of 1987;
The Resolution of the Minister of Interior No. 1 of 1984 regulating the granting of temporary residence permits for non-Qataris;
The proposal of the Minister of Public Health;
The Draft-Law submitted by the Council of Ministers;
And having consulted the *Shura* Council;
Hereby promulgate the following law:

Articles

Article 1

In implementing the provisions of this Law, the following words and expressions shall have the meanings assigned for each unless the context requires otherwise:

“**Ministry**” means **The** Ministry of Public Health.

“**Minister**” means **The** Minister of Public Health.

“**Health Facilities**” means health centers, hospitals and medical and therapeutic institutions related to The Ministry of Public Health.

“**Resident**” means those who are not Qatari nationals but who have a valid legal residence.

“**Visitor**” means those who are neither Qatari nationals nor residents of the State of Qatar. They are foreign nationals who are temporarily in Qatar.

“**Domestic workers & the like**” mean Non-Qatari persons who are employed as drivers, cooks, gardeners and *au pairs* etc in private homes.

Article 2

Qatari nationals shall be treated without being required to pay any fee at State-run health facilities.

The following persons, in addition to Qatari nationals, also qualify for this free medical treatment:

1. Citizens of the GCC for the Arab Gulf States, on the condition of reciprocity;
2. Holders of temporary residence permits in accordance with the decision of the Minister of Interior No. 1 of 1984.

Article 3

Health facilities shall be entitled to receive fees and charges for their services. These charges are listed in the tables below, accompanying this Law. Also stipulated are the fees which can be charged by health facilities for the treatment of domestic workers and the like. These are the same fees and charges which may be charged for residents, as set out in Table 3 accompanying this Law.

Government staff, employees of other government bodies, authorities and public corporations and the domestic workers and the likes who work for Qataris, shall be exempted from fees for cosmetic surgery and prosthetic limbs set out in Table 3 accompanying this Law, provided the injury requiring treatment occurred while they were at work or in connection with their employment.

Article 4

Fees and charges shall not be obtained for the following services:

1. Emergency cases and incidents where a patient is required to be admitted to hospital;
2. Preventative services in the field of maternity and childhood;
3. Preventative services in the field of school health for students;
4. Medical interventions to control infectious diseases and provide vaccinations.

Article 5

The Ministry shall issue a health card to the following people, which shall contain the following relevant information:

1. Qatari citizens. This card shall be valid for five years and includes the unique personal number of the bearer.
2. Citizens of the GCC for the Arab Gulf States. This card shall be valid for one year.
3. Holders of temporary residence permits. The card shall be valid for one year and includes the unique personal number of the bearer.
4. Residents in Qatar. The card shall be valid for one year, and includes the unique personal number of the bearer. The card would be valid from the date of its issue and expires when the bearer's period of residency ends.

The card is issued after the payment of fees which are outlined in Table 1. Fees are also payable for the renewal of this health card.

Article 6

In cases of lost or damaged cards, the holder may obtain a replacement upon payment of the fees detailed in Table 1.

Article 7

Save as in the cases outlined in Article 4 of this Law, and in the absence of a health card, a non-Qatari patient shall be treated as a visitor. For Qatari patients, however, the fees of a health card are collected against a receipt.

Article 8 (Amended By Decree 16/1996)★

Fees and charges for medical treatment as stated in the tables attached to this Law may only be amended with a law as well as the addition of new fees and charges.

Article 9

Any provision contrary to the provisions of this Law shall be cancelled, as well as the abovementioned Decree-Law No. 6 of 1965.

Article 10

The Minister shall issue the necessary resolutions to implement the provisions of this Law.

Article 11

Table 2 attached hereto shall apply from the date this Law comes into force, and the remaining provisions of this Law shall be enforced after six months from the date of its publication in the *Official Gazette*.

Article 12

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