

HEALTH LAW IMPLEMENTING REGULATIONS

These Regulations have been issued under the Minister of Health's Resolution No. (69181/30) dated 15/06/1424 H (corresponding to 13/08/2003 G) and published in Umm Al-Qura Gazette, issue No. (3956) dated 01/07/1424H (corresponding to 29/08/2003 G)

In the Name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
Ministry of Health
Minister Office

No.:
Date:
Attachments

Ministerial Resolution No. (69181/30), dated 15/06/1424 H (corresponding to 13/08/2003 G)

The Minister of Health,

Under powers granted thereto,

and under Article 18 of Health Law issued under the Royal Decree No. (M/11), dated 23/03/1423 H

Hereby decides the following:

I: The approval of the Implementing Regulations of Health Law, in the version attached hereto.

II: This Resolution shall be published in the Official Gazette and shall come into force after ninety days from the date of publication thereof.

Minister of Health
Dr. Hamad bin Abdullah Almani

In the Name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful
Health Law Implementing Regulations.

(Article 1)

Law:

Unless the context requires otherwise, the following phrases and words shall have the meaning ascribed to them hereunder:

1. Public Health: An integrated and comprehensive perspective of individual, family, and community health, as well as the environmental, social, economic, and genetic impacts thereon.
2. Healthcare: Preventive, curative, and rehabilitative services related to the health of the individual and community at its primary, secondary, and specialized levels.
3. Primary Healthcare: Shall mean the following:
 - A. Spreading health awareness at the levels of individual, family, and community on the problems and risks that threaten the health and ways to prevent them, as well as changing the behavioral patterns that may lead to disease.
 - B. Working with the relevant entities to monitor environmental sanitation and the safety of drinking water and food, and paying attention to and spreading awareness of healthy nutrition.
 - C. Integrated Maternal and Child Healthcare
 - D. Immunization against infectious diseases.
 - E. Combating and limiting the spread of endemic parasitic and infectious diseases.
 - F. . Conducting an adequate diagnosis and treatment of common diseases and injuries and vaginal deliveries.
 - G. Providing basic medicines.
4. Secondary Healthcare: Healthcare provided by general hospitals and specialist physicians.
5. Tertiary, specialized or referral Healthcare: Healthcare that is provided by hospitals specialized in specific diseases and requires advanced equipment and highly specialized physicians who have sufficient experience and skills.
6. Healthcare Provision: Ensuring the existence of Healthcare without necessarily implying that it is provided or financed directly by the State, except as stipulated in the Articles of this Law.
7. Minister: Minister of Health
8. Ministry: Ministry of Health
9. Council: Saudi Health Council (Council of Health Services formerly).

(Article 2)

Law:

This Law aims at ensuring the provision and regulation of comprehensive and integrated Healthcare for all the population in a fair and accessible manner.

Regulation:

(2/R)- The Minister of Health shall issue the rules and procedures necessary to regulate the provision of Healthcare to all population in a fair and accessible manner, based on health standards and indicators approved by the Saudi Health Council.

(Article 3)

Law:

The State shall endeavour to provide Healthcare and be concerned with the Public Health of the community in a manner that ensures living in a sound healthy environment, including, in particular, the following:

1. Safety and suitability of drinking water.
2. Safety and purification of sanitation.
3. Safety of handled food.
4. Safety of handled medicines, drugs, and medical supplies and controlling their usage.
5. Protecting society from the effects of drugs and alcohol.
6. Protecting the State from epidemics.
7. Protecting the environment from the dangers of all kinds of pollution.
8. Setting health requirements for the use of public places.
9. Spreading health awareness among the population.

Regulation:

(R/3) The Ministry shall coordinate with other government entities that provide Public Health services to cooperate for achieving the services stipulated in Article 3 of this Law.

(Article 4)

Law:

The State shall provide Healthcare services prescribed below to the citizens in a manner regulated by:

1. Maternal and child care
2. Immunization programs.
3. Healthcare for the disabled and the elderly.
4. Healthcare for male and female students.
5. Healthcare in accidents, emergencies, and disasters.
6. Combating infectious and epidemic diseases.
7. Treatment of incurable diseases, such as tumor removal, organ transplantation, and dialysis.
8. Mental health.
9. Other elements of Primary Healthcare services.

Regulation:

(4/1R) The Ministry shall endeavour, through coordination and cooperation with the official and private entities, to provide, constantly and in all cases, the health services, provided to groups that are more vulnerable to health risks.

(4/2R) In regulating Healthcare services stipulated in Article 4 of the Law, the explanatory implementing rules thereof shall be taken into account:

- A. Maternal and child care, which includes, in particular, periodic examination, premarital examination, pregnancy follow-up, health and nutritional education for the pregnant and breastfeeding mothers and children, as well as ensuring the availability of good delivery services.
- B. Immunization programs, including setting up relevant regulatory instructions, providing vaccines and serums in sufficient quantities and administering them to the groups, whether adults or young, identified by the Ministry of Health.
- C. Healthcare for the disabled and the elderly, as the Ministry shall coordinate with the entity concerned with this group under the Law or a concerned license, provided that it provides them with Healthcare, whether

this entity is governmental or private.

- D. Healthcare for male and female students, which includes coordination with the Ministry of Education by conducting the necessary examinations to check the health of male and female students before and during their enrollment in school, incorporation of health awareness in curriculum, and regulating the patient students treatment or immunization thereof against diseases. This shall apply to other educational institutions.
- E. Healthcare in cases of accidents, as the Saudi Red Crescent Authority, under its Law, shall regulate the pre-hospital emergency treatment and transportation thereof.

The Authority may assign some tasks of emergency transport to the private sector or any other sector under a specified regulation approved by the Authority's Board of Directors.

All public and private health institutions shall abide by the regulations and instructions thereof in terms of providing emergency treatment to the injured upon arrival, and they may be transferred to another treatment center after providing the necessary emergency treatment thereto.

- F. Healthcare in emergencies and disasters., and the Ministry of Health and their affiliated and controlled entities shall implement the tasks and plans assigned thereto according to the general plan approved by the Civil Defense Council, and it shall work on coordination with other entities in this regard
- G. Combating epidemic diseases, as the Ministry shall endeavour to coordinate and cooperate with the relevant entities within the framework of their respective competences in setting arrangements, taking necessary and sufficient procedures to prevent the emergence or spread of epidemics, whether they are transmitted by water, food, air or other ways of transmission, monitoring the implementation of the same, and evaluating the results thereof.
- H. Treatment of incurable diseases, as the Ministry shall endeavour to coordinate with the specialized entities to create medical centers capable of treating citizens in need, based on a medical report.
- I. The treatment in these centers within the Kingdom shall be regulated through a referral system to be agreed upon among the entities with which these centers are affiliated.

As for outside the Kingdom, the specialized medical entities shall be the ones with the authority to recommend the treatment at the expense of the State.

- J. - Mental health, as the Ministry shall assure the right to treatment and rehabilitation for mental patients in its health facilities in a manner that preserves their dignity and rights and rehabilitates them to practice their social and personal affairs. Also, the Ministry shall set the procedures and rules regulating the same.

(Article 5)

Law:

The Ministry shall be the entity responsible for providing Healthcare and, in particular, it shall:

1. Ensure the provision of Primary Healthcare services.
2. Provide Healthcare services in hospitals and the secondary and specialized treatment centers.
3. Prepare health statistics and biostatistics and conduct, analyze, and benefit from scientific studies and research.
4. Set the health strategy and plans necessary to provide, develop, and distribute Healthcare, in a manner ensures that all members of society can access thereto.
5. Set programs to prepare and develop the health workforce in cooperation with the relevant entities.
6. - Set instructions and requirements to prevent the entry and spread of, report on, and endeavour to combat or eliminate the infectious, epidemic, and quarantine diseases, while applying the preventive and curative procedures.
7. Regulate and control the handling of medicines and drugs to ensure their availability, suitability, proper use, and affordability.
8. Set the necessary controls and requirements for licensing to the private health institutions and their employees, and monitor the activities and the performance quality thereof.
9. Set quality rules and standards for Healthcare and ensure the implementation thereof.
10. Ensure correct practice of health professions and the extent of the workers' adherence to the profession's rules and ethics
11. Set rules governing the conduct of medical and pharmaceutical research and experiments.

12. Set plans and programs to spread comprehensive health awareness at the community level.
13. Cooperate and coordinate with states and regional and global organizations in the fields of Public Health and Healthcare.

Regulation:

(5/1R) The Ministry shall guarantee the right of citizens to obtain, in an accessible and unimpeded manner, the basic health services at the first level of Healthcare, to provide the necessary workforce, medical supplies, medicines, and appropriate buildings, and to follow up on the provision of these services in an adequate and affordable manner in case they are provided by other entities.

(5/2R) The Ministry shall guarantee the right of the patient citizen to be referred to a higher level of Healthcare if its condition requires so.

Primarily, the referral is to be to a hospital affiliated with the same entity; if the referral is to another entity, then this shall be done according to an existing arrangement between the two entities that determines how the referral and bearing the costs of treatment are made.

(5/3R) The Ministry shall conduct a periodical review to ensure the availability of an adequate number of beds and efficient distribution of hospitals and health centers in different regions. In particular, it shall:

(5/3-1R) Verify the fair and balanced distribution of the numbers of health centers, hospitals, and beds among regions.

(5/3-2R) Take the necessary measures to confront the causes of deficiencies in places where there are not sufficient health services.

(5/3-3R) Ensure the efficient use of available resources, including reducing the volume of the redundant services.

(5/4R) The Ministry shall periodically evaluate the health status and the performance of health services in the Kingdom

To this end, a comprehensive statistical system, in which all health service providers participate, shall be created.

Also, the Ministry shall endeavour to create national health indicators and other indicators of health significance based on documented statistical information and epidemiological studies.

(5/5R) Taking into consideration the tasks stipulated in the previous Paragraphs, the Ministry shall define its health needs and set the necessary plans to meet them, within the framework of the State's general plan.

(5/6R) The Ministry shall, based on its study of health needs, determine the need for the workforce and propose the necessary programs to provide the same in cooperation with other health entities, educational entities, and the Workforce Council.

(5/7-1R) The Ministry shall, in cooperation with the relevant entities, set conditions, controls, and instructions to prevent the entry and spread of epidemics through arrivals to the Kingdom for the purpose of Hajj and Umrah, visit, tourism, or work; foodstuffs; imported goods; and means of transportation; or any other source, in particular, shops for trading, eating, and transporting food and beverages, barbershops, laundry shops, public swimming pools, water tanks and its means of transporting, places of collection, transporting, and disposal of garbage and hazardous waste, as well as unhealthy houses.

The Ministry shall report the conditions, instructions, and procedures for the application thereof to the Kingdom's representations abroad, customs and passports authorities, travel agencies, import agencies, and the embassies of other states in the Kingdom.

(5/7-2R) The Ministry shall set a system for reporting and investigating the contracting of epidemic and infectious diseases, isolation procedures for the diseases that need to isolate the patients, providing the necessary means for immunization against these diseases, announcing the method, dates, and place of obtaining them. The Ministry shall also set working guides (protocols) for how to deal and treat in the event of any epidemic disease.

(5/8R) The Ministry shall work under the provisions of the relevant laws to regulate the manufacture and handling medicines and the like such as other biological, herbal, and health preparations, and monitor their use through the following:

- Set a registration system that takes into account the efficiency, effectiveness, and safety of taking the

medicines, and that each medicine has one or more alternatives in the local market.

- Set a system for following up drug quality after handling, issuing a periodic bulletin showing the results of this follow-up, providing information on drug toxicity and how to treat it, and following up on what is published outside the Kingdom in relation to the use and effectiveness of drugs.
- Set precise and strict procedures to regulate the use of narcotic and controlled drugs and methods of their importation, handling, dispensing, and disposal.

(5/9 R) The Ministry shall set quality rules and standards in its health facilities as well as the private health institutions and establish the necessary administrative structure to ensure the implementation of these rules and monitoring the performance. The Ministry may contract with one or more specialized entities to carry out some or all of these tasks. This shall apply to the facilities of private health institutions under the Private Health Institutions Law.

(5/10R-A) The Ministry shall set the organizational procedures and administrative structures necessary to implement the laws for practicing the profession and its implementing regulations, taking into account the interest of the beneficiaries of health services and the rights of professional practitioners, cooperating with the Saudi Commission for Health Specialties in the field of work thereof.

B-The Ministry shall issue a guide of professional ethics to help practitioners to understand their duties, responsibilities, and the limits of their practice of the profession. In setting the guide, the Ministry shall also cooperate with the Saudi Commission for Health Specialties and professionals with experience it considers necessary.

C-The Ministry shall endeavour to form a national committee to set the necessary controls for conducting medical and pharmaceutical researches and experiments.

(5/11R) The Ministry shall set an annual program to activate health awareness activities and follow-up and evaluate their impacts in establishing healthy behavior among members of the society, taking into account giving special attention to adolescents.

The Ministry shall form a national committee to supervise the development and implementation of health awareness plans, in which the relevant entities and experts in various health specialties shall participate. A special item for the work of this committee and its programs shall be allocated in the Ministry's budget.

(Article 6)

Law:

The state shall endeavour, through the Ministry, to provide an integrated network of Healthcare services covering all regions of the Kingdom, including primary, secondary, and specialized Healthcare levels. The Ministry, in cooperation with the regions' councils, shall determine the need, locations, and levels of providing this care according to the geographical and demographic status and the patterns of diseases prevailing in the region.

Regulation:

(6/1R) The Ministry shall endeavour to ensure the achievement of comprehensive Healthcare coverage for the entire population through a network of health facilities distributed throughout the Kingdom's regions so that residents of each region have access to Healthcare at the primary, secondary, and specialized care levels. The Ministry shall work with other government entities or private entities to ensure that the health facilities of these entities are part of this network, including the services they provide to the beneficiaries thereof.

(6/2R) The Ministry shall take into account the accessibility to health service and the continuity of its provision in difficult circumstances, and it shall also endeavour to provide the necessary incentives to accomplish this in order to reduce the difficulty of working and living in remote and inaccessible areas.

(Article 7)

Law:

Each general directorate of health affairs shall be given the administrative and financial powers that enable them to effectively perform the tasks entrusted thereto. The Ministry shall take into account, within its budget, the needs of each region according to its health facilities and the number of its population, and appropriations each hospital needs will be allocated.

Regulation:

(7/1R) The Minister of Health shall issue regulatory resolutions that determine the competence of health affairs directorates and its financial and administrative powers, and provide them with the sufficient authority and necessary flexibility to conduct their work and supervise their facilities.

(7/2R) The Ministry shall seek to strengthen the supervisory and executive bodies of the directorate by allocating a sufficient number of jobs and selecting and training qualified employees.

(7/3R) In preparing its annual budget, the Ministry shall take into account the needs of each region according to health facilities in it and the number of its population.

What is allocated to the region may not be transferred nor any financial savings or vacancies may be used for the benefit of another entity, except after informing the region of the same, explaining the reasons, and obtaining the approval of the Minister.

(7/4R) The Ministry shall set the appropriate and effective mechanism to monitor the performance of the directorates, evaluate its outcomes, on a regular basis, and hold them accountable therefor.

(7/5R) The Minister of Health shall form an executive council whose members shall consist of general directors of health affairs and senior officials in the Ministry and holds its meetings at least twice a year or as needed. The Minister shall define the powers of the council and the way it works.

(7/6R) Every directorate of health affairs shall be required to prepare an estimated budget for its health facilities, including each hospital separately, that shall be based on an accurate calculation of costs and usage indicators; provided that this budget shall be guided with on the distribution of annual appropriations for these facilities.

(Article 8)

Law:

The General Directorate of Health Affairs shall implement the plans and programs set by the Ministry in the region, and shall be, in particular, entrusted with the following responsibilities:

1. Ensure the availability of Healthcare programs to cover the needs of the region.
2. Assume the responsibility of managing and operating the Ministry's health facilities.
3. License private health facilities and their employees in accordance with the requirements and conditions set by the Ministry, and monitor the quality of these facilities.
4. Prepare health statistics and biostatistics and conduct studies and research at the regional level.
5. Set and implement continuing medical education programs, and train workers in health facilities in the region in coordination with the Ministry and other health sectors.
6. Coordinate and cooperate with government and private health institutions and other directorates.
7. Implement plans and programs to spread comprehensive health awareness at the region level.

Regulation:

(8/1R) The General Directorates of Health Affairs shall be committed to implementing the plans and programs set by the Ministry

In particular, it shall assume the following responsibilities:

- A. Set an annual plan, upon issuance of the budget, to follow up the implementation of approved Healthcare programs, while setting goals, following priorities, and preparing periodic reports on what has been

achieved to be submitted to the Ministry.

- B. Prepare the region's draft budget for the following year, explaining the region's needs and required resources to be fulfilled and prioritized.
- C. The Directorate shall, in cooperation with the competent department in the Ministry, set a draft five-year plan for the region that is based on a scientific assessment of the needs and a clear identification of priorities and objectives. The draft shall be presented to the region's council for approval.

(8/2R) In managing and operating its health facilities, the Directorate of Health Affairs shall take the following into account the following:

- A. Select competent leadership cadres while providing opportunities to train and develop their expertise. Each employee shall work in its field of specialization.
- B. Set an annual plan for training and continuing education that shall be directed towards developing the performance of employees and the health service and constitute a component in evaluating job performance.
- C. Continuously review distribution of jobs and workforce among health facilities to ensure that there is no unfair disparity or imbalance in services.
- D. Endeavour to implement performance measurement standards in health facilities, including those of the private sector, as decided by the Ministry, and hold those responsible for these facilities accountable in light of these standards.
- E. Ensure the availability and application of guides of work policies and procedures in each health facility, including those related to treating the beneficiaries in a good manner and ensuring the safety of patients, equipment, and facilities.
- F. Ensure the adequacy of medicines, their safe storage, distribution, and dispensing, as well as the availability of the equipment necessary to provide, maintain, and properly use the service, and document this on a regular basis.
- G. Provide new medicines and equipment based on proof of need.
- H. When there is evidence of low or non-use of a health service or a health commodity - in a way that makes keeping them squandering of public funds, then the Directorate shall move the same to another place that needs them, reduce, or cancel them. If this affects an existing facility or basic service, the matter shall be referred to the Ministry for approval.

(8/3R) The Directorate shall supervise its health facilities according to the health sector regulation set by the Ministry in line with the administrative division of the region. The Directorate shall delegate powers to the extent that enables its health sectors and facilities to conduct daily work without interruption or delay in transactions.

(8/4R) The Directorate shall grant the licenses of private health institutions under the terms and requirements stipulated in the Private Health Institutions Law and its Regulations and the relevant resolutions issued by the Ministry, taking into account the following:

- Setting conditions, instructions, and licensing requirements into a sequentially arranged list to be delivered to each license applicant, including the requirements for professional classification and registration with the Saudi Commission for Health Specialties.
- Not to delay in taking licensing procedures or deciding on violations.

(8/5R) The Directorate may contract with one or more full-time or part-time practitioners of the profession for a period not exceeding a month in order to redress an imbalance in the provision of health service - especially in remote areas or in vital specialties (such as obstetrics, anesthesiology, etc.) if it is not possible to redress this imbalance through the Directorate's staff or employment contracts thereof or by the Ministry in any way. The contracting decision shall not be issued except after making sure that the necessary amount for that is available and according to the procedures for disbursement from the item of lump sum salaries, taking into account the conditions and qualifications specified by law for this job. The decision issued by the Directorate in this regard shall clarify the justifications for the contracting and duration thereof. If it is necessary to contract for a period exceeding one month, the approval of the competent deputy minister shall be obtained.

(8/6R) The Directorate shall coordinate, through its participation in the region's council, with the official entities in matters related to health, provided that the goal of coordination is clear as well as the tasks assigned to each entity within the scope of its competencies and powers. The Directorate shall coordinate with other government and private health entities in matters concerning the provision of health services, including the implementation of the Saudi Health Council's resolutions, as mentioned in Article 17 of the Law.

(Article 9)

Law:

1. The Ministry's affiliated health centers, other government entities and the private sector shall provide preventive, emergency, curative, and rehabilitative services and direct cases, when needed, to hospitals and treatment centers.
2. The Implementing Regulations shall specify the details of these centers' competencies, the rules governing their work, their relationship with hospitals, referral procedures, and the issuance of medical reports.

Regulation:

(9/1R) Health centers and the like, including clinics, clinic complexes, or dispensaries affiliated with the government or private entities are the first level of access to health service.

(9/2R) The return patient shall be taken into consideration in having its full right to examination and treatment. The health center shall have the necessary equipment, medicines, and means of emergency treatment; providing the patient whose condition cannot be treated in the health center with the possibility of being referred by a medical report to a specialist physician in the hospital, with which the center is affiliated. The center shall follow up on the patient's condition, including coordinating the hospital visit and continue their treatment after the end of the visit, according to the recommendations of the treating physician. The entity responsible for the health center shall set a guide of the center's tasks and procedures of work therein, including an explanation of the referral procedures.

(9/3R) Every patient shall have the right to obtain a brief medical report on their condition upon its request, and this report shall contain the date of the visit, diagnosis, and treatment.

As for detailed official medical reports, they shall be given only upon request from the competent official entity.

(9/4R) The health center shall be responsible, within the scope of its services, for following up on the health condition of people with disabilities and chronic diseases, implementing the recommendations of their treating physicians, and developing a regulated record for each of them.

(9/5R) The health center shall issue to each return patient registered therein a card with their file number in the center, its name and workplace, and it authorizes it to visit the center and benefit from its services.

If they are covered by the Health Insurance Law and are allowed to visit the center, the center shall register the insurance card number and issue the treatment bill according to the procedures regulated by the entity responsible for the center in agreement with the insurance companies.

(9/6R) Each patient visits the health center or is referred therefrom to another health facility shall have one file number that does not change, even if the health facility, region, or entity they belong to, changed. It is preferable that the number is the same as its civil registration number. The Saudi Health Council shall, in coordination with the concerned entities (such as the Ministry of Interior), endeavour to find the appropriate mechanism for that.

(Article 10)

Law:

Without prejudice to the provisions of Article (4), Healthcare services shall be funded by the following methods:

- 1- State's general budget.
- 2- Revenues of Cooperative Health Insurance.
- 3- Endowments, grants, donations, bequests, etc.

The principles and standards, according to which methods of financing the services provided by various health facilities are selected and regulating right to use thereof, shall be determined by a resolution of the Council of Ministers, based on a proposal made by the Minister.

Regulation:

(10/1R) The method by which health services are financed shall not prejudice the objective of this Law of ensuring

the provision of comprehensive, integrated Healthcare to all the population in a fair and accessible manner, which shall be the responsibility of the Saudi Health Council.

(10/2R) The Ministry shall refer its draft budget, according to the procedures followed every year, to spend on the services it provides. In cases in which the Ministry, under the laws and supreme orders, may receive money for some of its services, (such as services provided to persons covered by the Cooperative Health Insurance or private clinics for consultants within the facility in which they work, or so on), or in exchange for the use of some of its properties by others, benefiting from this revenue shall be regulated in an appropriate manner that achieves an improvement of health services. The same shall apply to government health entities.

(10/3R) With regard to the funds properties of endowments, donations, grants, and bequests allocated to health services, it shall be taken into account to be treated according to the following:

- A. The desire of the donor, endowment donor, or testator shall be clear to the entity receives them.
- B. The desire shall be consistent with the objectives of this Law.
- C. The donations and in kind endowments must fulfill an existing need that justifies the acceptance thereof.
- D. The beneficiary entity shall be able to manage and operate them.
- E. If the endowed, donated or inherited property is a health facility independent, in its ownership, management and operation, of the Ministry, then it shall be licensed according to the Private Health Institutions Law.

(10/4R) The methods of financing mentioned in the Third Paragraph of Article 10 of the Law shall include direct payment methods for services that are not covered by the mentioned methods, as well as the fees imposed on some services under other laws.

(10/5R) The Minister shall, based on a recommendation from the Saudi Health Council, submit a proposal that includes the principles and standards, according to which the methods of financing shall be determined, for health services, the financing entities, and the beneficiaries who are entitled to benefit from these services at the facilities that provide them, provided that these principles and standards are reviewed periodically.

(Article 11)

Law:

By a resolution of the Council of Ministers based on the Minister's proposal, the ownership of some of the Ministry's hospitals may be transferred to the private sector.

Regulation:

(11/R) The Minister of Health, based on an assessment of the need for or feasibility of allocating some of the Ministry's hospitals, shall refer a draft to the Council of Ministers, in which he shall specify the hospital(s) proposed to be transferred to the private sector. This may be through selling or leasing to a private investor or a joint-stock company or converting it into an institution owned and managed by the State, following the way of the private sector. In all cases, this shall not prejudice the provision of Healthcare to citizens or lead to low-level Healthcare or difficulty in obtaining it.

(Article 12)

Law:

The Ministry shall work on the following:

1. Providing education and training for the health team members working therein, in coordination with the relevant entities.
2. Ensuring that applicants for licensing or re-licensing have a recognized level of education and training.

The Saudi Commission for Health Specialties shall establish the standards required for education and training.

Regulation:

(12/1R) The Ministry shall, in coordination with the Ministry of Civil Service and the Saudi Commission for Health

Specialties, endeavour to set specialization, training, and continuing education programs, held in health facilities that meet the standards for recognizing the validity of training approved by the Commission.

The directorates, in particular, shall provide the physicians of health centers with a clinical practice training program that includes a short course in each of the hospital's major specialties.

(12/2R) Ensuring the level of education and training obtained by applicants for licensing or re-licensing to practice health professions requires the following:

1. Applying the standards set by the Saudi Commission for Health Specialties for professional classification and registration.
2. Applying the qualification and experience requirements specified by the regulations of civil service and profession practice.
3. Recognition of the education and training institutions in which the applicant has been qualified to be licensed.

(Article 13)

Law:

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

(Article 14)

Law:

Healthcare shall be provided to pilgrims during the Hajj period, under regulations set by the Minister.

(Article 15)

Law:

Without prejudice to the powers of other entities, the Ministry shall be the entity responsible for applying this Law.

Regulation:

(15/R) With regard to the application of this Law, the responsibility of the Ministry shall not include action within competence of another entity, except for what is required for coordination and follow-up in matters affecting the competence of the Ministry.

(Article 16)

Law:

- A. A council, called the Saudi Health Council, shall be established under the chairmanship of the Minister and the membership of:
1. A representative of the Ministry to be nominated by the Minister.
 2. Two representatives from the health services in the Presidency of the National Guard, the Ministry of Defense and Aviation, the Ministry of Interior, and King Faisal Specialist Hospital and Research Center, to be nominated by their entities.
 3. Two deans of health colleges to be nominated by the Minister of Higher Education.
 4. Two representatives of the private health sector to be nominated by the Saudi Council of Chambers of Commerce and Industry.
 5. A representative from the Saudi Commission for Health Specialties to be nominated by the Commission.
 6. A representative from the Saudi Red Crescent Authority to be nominated by the Authority.

7. A representative from the Council of Cooperative Health to be nominated by the Council.
- B. The members of the Council shall be appointed by a resolution of the Council of Ministers for a period of three years, renewable twice only. The rank of the Council members representing government entities shall not be less than the twelfth rank.
- C. The Council may convene delegates, experts or specialists to attend its meetings; and they shall have the right to discuss without having the right to vote.
- D. A Council's meeting shall not be considered legal, except with the attendance of at least two thirds of the members. The resolutions of the Council shall be issued by the majority of attendees, and when the votes are equal, the side with which the Chairman votes shall prevail, and the resolutions thereof shall be binding on the health sectors after being approved by the Prime Minister.
- E. The Council shall set internal regulations concerning the conduct of its work.
- F. The amount and source of the remuneration of the Chairman and members of the Council shall be determined by a Council of Ministers' resolution, upon a proposal to be made by the Minister.

(Article 17)

Law:

The Council shall be competent for:

- A. Preparing Healthcare strategy in the Kingdom in preparation for approval by the Council of Ministers.
- B. Setting the appropriate regulation for the operation of hospitals managed by the Ministry and other government entities, so that they are managed according to the principles of economic management and standards of performance and quality.
- C. Setting and approving the policy of coordination and integration among all competent entities of providing Healthcare services, in particular, in the following areas:
 1. Primary, secondary, and specialized Healthcare services.
 2. Emergency and medical evacuation services.
 3. Transferring the patients among various health entities.
 4. Providing and optimally using the medicines and medical supplies and equipment.
 5. Educating, training, and employment of health workforce.
 6. Conducting health research and studies.
 7. Providing Healthcare to pilgrims.
 8. Spreading health awareness among the population.
 9. Developing environmental health.
 10. Exchanging specialists' experiences among different health entities.
- D. Appointing a secretary general for the Council based on the Minister's nomination, and in accordance with the requirements of the Civil Service Law.
- E. Setting necessary rules to remunerate used experts in coordination with the Ministry of Finance¹ (Ministry of Finance and National Economy formerly).

Regulations:

- (17/R) The Council shall endeavour to develop and interconnect the health system and improve its performance. In order to undertake its tasks and competencies, the Council may:
- Conduct the necessary studies and hold seminars and workshops related to the topics of the resolutions issued by the Council.
 - Establish an information system that links it with the entities represented therein and provides the Council

¹ The Royal Decree No. (A/2) has been issued on 1424/02/28 H (corresponding to 2003/04/30 G) to transfer the economic activity from the Ministry of Finance to the Ministry of Planning and to amend the name of the Ministry of Finance and National Economy to the name of (Ministry of Finance).

with the data, information, and reports it needs.

- Work on standardizing health indicators, performance quality standards and the quality of health education outputs.
- Form permanent specialized committees and determine its tasks and method of work.
- Set the appropriate mechanism to ensure the implementation of the resolutions taken by the Council and the achievement of coordination and integration among the competent entities for providing the health services.

(Article 18)

Law:

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

Regulation:

(18/R) These Regulations shall be published in the Official Gazette and shall come into force after ninety days from the date of publication thereof².

² These Regulations have been published in Umm Al-Qura Gazette, issue No. (3956) dated 1424/07/01 H (corresponding to 2003/08/29 G).