

[TO BE INTRODUCED IN THE SENATE]

A
BILL

further to amend the Islamabad Healthcare Regulation Act, 2018

WHEREAS it is expedient further to amend the Islamabad Healthcare Regulation Act, 2018 (XXIII of 2018) for the purposes hereinafter appearing;

It is hereby enacted as follows:-

1. Short title and commencement. - (1) This Act may be called the Islamabad Healthcare Regulation (Amendment) Act, 2025.

(2) It shall come into force at once.

2. Amendment of section 2, Act XXIII of 2018.- In the Islamabad Healthcare Regulation Act, 2018 (XXIII of 2018), hereinafter referred to as the said Act, in section 2, after clause (xii), the following new clause shall be inserted, namely:-

"(xiiia) "diagnostic services" means medical tests, imaging scans, and other technical examinations of patients conducted in healthcare establishments to assist in the identification, monitoring, or management of illnesses, injuries, or health conditions."

3. Amendment of section 20, Act XXIII of 2018.- In the said Act, in section 20, in sub-section (3), for the word "malpractice" the expression "malpractice, charging diagnostic services fees higher than the determined range" shall be substituted.

4. Insertion of section 28A, Act XXIII of 2018.- In the said Act, after section 28, the following new section shall be inserted, namely:-

"28A. Regulation of diagnostic services fees.- (1) The Board shall, by notification in the official gazette, constitute a committee with the mandate to regulate and determine the fees range to be charged by the private healthcare establishments for all diagnostic services.

(2) The committee shall comprise of the following, namely:-

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| (a) Director General of Health. | Chairman |
| (b) Chief Executive Officer of Islamabad Healthcare Regulatory Authority. | Member |
| (c) District Health Officer, Islamabad. | Member |
| (d) two representatives of private healthcare establishments nominated by the Board. | Members |

(3) The committee shall determine the minimum and maximum fees range to be charged by the private healthcare establishments for all diagnostic services, whether it is basic test or specialized test, and shall notify for the general public in the prescribed and appropriate manner:

Provided that if in the opinion of the committee, there is no need to determine the minimum fees range for any diagnostic services, the committee shall determine only the maximum fees range.

(4) The committee shall, after every six months, review the fees range to be charged by the private healthcare establishments for all diagnostic services.

(5) No private healthcare establishment shall charge fees higher than the determined range for all diagnostic services."

5. Amendment of section 30, Act XXIII of 2018:- In the said Act, in section 30, after sub-section (3), the following new sub-section shall be added, namely:-

"(4) Whoever charges diagnostic service fees exceeding the prescribed range shall be liable to a fine of one hundred thousand rupees for the first violation. For a second violation, the fine shall be two hundred thousand rupees, which may be extended up to three hundred thousand rupees. In the event of a third violation, fine of three hundred thousand rupees along with sealing of health care establishment and cancellation of license or with both."

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

The fees for diagnostic services in private healthcare establishments in Islamabad have been remained unchecked due to the absence of a regulatory mechanism. As a result, there is a significant disparity in the fees charged across various private healthcare establishments.

2. This amendment aims to regulate the fees structure of diagnostic services in private healthcare establishments in Islamabad. This amendment will ensure uniformity in the fees of diagnostic services. The amendment will reduce disparities in the diagnostic services fees charged by the private healthcare establishments, will make healthcare services more affordable for poor people, and will eliminate exploitative diagnostic services fees in private healthcare establishments.

3. The Bill has been designed to achieve the aforesaid objectives.

SENATOR MOHSIN AZIZ
MEMBER-IN-CHARGE