

Introduced on:- 18-05-2026

AS
[TO BE INTRODUCED IN SENATE]

**A
BILL**

*further*to amend the Islamabad Healthcare Regulation Act, 2018

WHEREAS it is expedient 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, 2026.

(2) It shall come into force at once.

2. Amendment of Section 2, Act XXIII of 2018.-In the Islamabad Healthcare Regulation Act, 2018, in section 2, after paragraph (xvii), the following new paragraph (xviii) shall be inserted namely:-

“(xviii) “**Health Tariff**” means the maximum rates, charges, fees, or prices—

- i. determined and notified by the Authority under this Act; and
- ii. permissible to be charged by a healthcare establishment from a patient or any other person; in respect of healthcare services, procedures, consultations, diagnostics, room rent, or any other service provided by such establishment, but does not include—
 - a) any tax, duty, cess, or levy imposed by the Federal Government or any Provincial Government under any law relating to taxation; or
 - b) customs duties on import of medical goods or equipment”.

3. Amendment of Section 4, Act XXIII of 2018.-In the Islamabad Healthcare Regulation Act, 2018, in section 4, insub-section (1), after para (z), the following new paras shall be inserted namely:

“(aa) regulate tariffs, fees and charges of healthcare services provided by healthcare establishments within the Islamabad Capital Territory;

(ab) ensure transparency, fairness and accountability in medical billing practices;

(ac) protect patients from excessive or exploitative healthcare charges;

(ad) conduct financial audits of healthcare establishments in respect of billing and pricing practices.”

4. Insertion of New Chapter IV-A, Act XXIII of 2018.-In the Islamabad Healthcare Regulation Act, 2018, after section 28, the following new Chapter shall be inserted, namely:—

CHAPTER IV-A
REGULATION OF HEALTHCARE TARIFFS

28A. Establishment of Healthcare Tariff Policy Board.-(1) The Authority shall establish a Healthcare Tariff Policy Board for regulation of prices of healthcare services.

(2) The Board shall consist of—

- a) Chief Executive Officer of the Authority (Chairperson);
- b) one health economist nominated by the Federal Government;
- c) one representative of the Ministry of National Health Services;
- d) one representative of private healthcare establishments;
- e) one representative of consumer protection organizations; and
- f) one representative of the Competition Commission of Pakistan in advisory capacity.

(3) The Board shall meet at least twice in a year.

28B. Determination of Tariffs.-(1) The Tariff Policy Board shall determine and notify maximum tariffs for healthcare services including—

- a) consultation fees;
- b) diagnostic tests and laboratory investigations;
- c) intensive care unit and emergency room charges;
- d) surgical procedures and operation theatre charges; and
- e) room rents and hospital bed charges.

(2) The tariffs shall be determined on the basis of—

- f) cost of service delivery;
- g) reasonable return on investment;
- h) affordability of healthcare services for the public.

- (1) The Authority shall publish the tariff schedule in the Official Gazette and on its official website.

28C. Prohibition of Overcharging.-(1) No healthcare establishment or healthcare professional shall charge fees exceeding the tariffs notified by the Authority.

(2) Any violation of this section shall constitute overcharging and the Authority may impose a penalty which may extend to five million rupees.

(3) Where overcharging is established, the Authority may order the healthcare establishment to refund the excess amount charged to the patient.

(4) In case of repeated violations, the Authority may—

- (a) suspend the licence of the healthcare establishment; or
- (b) revoke the licence of the healthcare establishment.

28D. Mandatory Price Disclosure.-(1) Every healthcare establishment shall—

- a) prominently display schedule of healthcare service charges;

- b) publish the charges on its website;
- c) provide patients with an itemized bill of services rendered.

(2) Failure to comply shall be punishable with a fine which may extend to one million rupees.

28E. Emergency Treatment. - (1) No healthcare establishment shall refuse or delay emergency medical treatment on the ground of non-payment of advance fees or deposit.

(2) Violation of this section shall constitute an offence and the Authority may—

- (a) impose a penalty which may extend to five million rupees; or
- (b) suspend the licence of the healthcare establishment.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

The Islamabad Healthcare Regulation Act, 2018 provides a framework for licensing and regulation of healthcare establishments in the Islamabad Capital Territory. However, the Act presently lacks an effective mechanism for regulation of healthcare tariffs and prevention of excessive billing by private hospitals and clinics. In recent years, complaints regarding exorbitant medical charges and lack of transparency in hospital billing practices have increased significantly. Healthcare is an essential service directly connected with the constitutional right to life under Article 9 of the Constitution of Pakistan. This amendment therefore seeks to—

- a) establish a Healthcare Tariff Policy Board;
- b) regulate pricing of healthcare services;
- c) prevent overcharging by healthcare establishments;
- d) ensure transparency in medical billing; and
- e) protect patients from financial exploitation.

The Bill aims to strengthen the regulatory capacity of the Islamabad Healthcare Regulatory Authority and ensure fair and affordable healthcare services for the residents of the Islamabad Capital Territory.

The Bill, therefore, seeks to achieve the above objectives.



(SENATOR SAMINA MUMTAZ ZEHR)

Member In-Charge