

Guidelines for Overseas Diagnosis and Treatment

The framework for the Overseas Diagnosis and Treatment provides for highly specialized overseas diagnosis and treatment programme for the citizens of Seychelles and matters connected therewith and incidental thereto.

The Secretariat

The management of overseas treatment will be undertaken by the Overseas Diagnosis and Treatment Unit, established within the Health Care Agency. This Unit is headed by a Manager who will administer the responsibilities and functions of the Unit. A Deputy Manager will also be appointed.

The responsibilities and functions are to:-

- a) Plan, organize and provide logistical support to persons approved by the Board for diagnosis and treatment overseas.
- b) Liaise with hospitals overseas for appointments or admission dates.
- c) Respond to queries from members of the public about the overseas diagnosis and treatment.
- d) Explain the policies and procedures of the programme to persons and/or their relatives.
- e) Process requests and references to the Board.
- f) Make the necessary accommodation and travel arrangements.
- g) Obtain updates on persons and their progress.
- h) Keep records of follow up visits and statistics.
- i) Provide formal responses to all matters relating to approval or applications for refunds.

Eligibility for Overseas Diagnosis and Treatment

- a) A person who has been referred to and placed under the care of a specialist working in the Seychelles Hospitals.
- b) A person who has received all possible treatment, undergone all possible investigations and exhausted all options locally.
- c) The specialist taking care of the person must have filled, endorsed, forwarded a referral form and furnished a detailed medical summary for consideration by the Overseas Diagnosis and Treatment Board.
- d) The Board must have reviewed the referral form and medical summary and approved to send the person overseas for diagnosis and treatment.

The Overseas Diagnosis and Treatment Board

The Board will consist of a Chairperson, deputy Chairperson and five other members. Four of the members will be specialists and one member will be a medical person.

The functions are to:-

- a) Propose policies and criteria including the nature and type of conditions for which diagnosis and treatment overseas may be considered.
- b) Evaluate all referrals and determine the requests for overseas diagnosis and treatment.
- c) Make suggestions regarding established treatment and investigations provided in centres of reference overseas.
- d) Review progress and recommend the continuing treatment in Seychelles.
- e) Make recommendations on policies and guidelines for considering applications for refund and for the provision of escorts to persons approved by the Board.
- f) Make recommendations to the Minister for the introduction of new services in the health care system.

Meetings of the Board

The Board shall meet not less than once a week and three members will constitute a quorum.

Where the urgency of a case requires an immediate decision, the documented case will be circulated to all members in a manner that is confidential and practical for taking a decision.

Decisions of the Board

A decision of the Board will be on a case by case basis taking into consideration the expert opinion of the specialty or discipline to which the person belongs.

The Board will provide the reasons for its decisions in writing.

A person aggrieved by a decision of the Board may appeal to the Appeals Committee.

Appeals Committee.

The Appeals committee will consist of a Chairperson and two other members who are specialists working in the Seychelles Hospitals.

The Appeals Committee may co-opt any expert as may be considered necessary in deciding an appeal.

There will be a Secretary who will receive, process and submit appeals for the consideration of the Appeals Committee.

Remuneration of members of the Overseas Diagnosis and Treatment Board and Appeals Committee.

Board fees will be remunerated according to the Remuneration Policy and Framework on fees for Executive Boards.

Emergency transfers.

Where a person needs to be transferred overseas urgently for diagnosis or treatment, urgent approval may be given by the Chairperson of the Board and at least one other member.

The Manager will make immediate arrangements to transfer the person overseas for diagnosis and treatment.

The Chairperson must record the reasoning for the decision within forty eight hours of having been taken.

Refund for expenses incurred for Overseas Diagnosis and Treatment.

A refund of expenses may be made where:-

- a) A person has fallen ill overseas and necessitated urgent treatment.
- b) A person sought a second opinion and is diagnosed with a disease which was not diagnosed in Seychelles but needed immediate treatment.
- c) A person upon routine medical checkup overseas is diagnosed with a disease which was not diagnosed in Seychelles and needed immediate treatment.
- d) The application for refund has been approved by the Board.
- e) An error of judgement was committed by the Board in determining not to send the person for overseas diagnosis and treatment.