

UAE approves new rules on organ transplants

Live donor must undergo full mental and physical medical screening and checkup, to make sure the surgery does not jeopardize his/her health

- By Dina El Shammaa, Abu Dhabi Deputy Editor
- Published: 13:30 May 18, 2010

Abu Dhabi: The UAE has approved bylaws governing the federal law on organ transplantation, which enables multi-organ donation after an individual's death.

The decision was taken by the UAE Health Council, chaired by Dr. Hanif Hassan, Minister of Health.

According to circular number 566/2010, sent by the Ministry of Health (MoH) issued May 16, a person who wishes to donate his/her kidney, liver, lung, pancreas and heart for use in a transplantation surgery, is allowed to do so given that he/she provides a written consent and approval, before death. The donors consent letter must be accompanied by two other signatures and approvals from two mentally fit witnesses.

The circular also states that after an individual's death, his/her first and second relatives have the right to donate his/her organs after death even if the donor did not provide a written will regarding the matter prior to his/her death.

Even though the circular does not specify which organs they will be able to give the patient, live donors will also be able to donate an organ given that they have the same blood type as the patient, and are in a stable mental and physical condition.

In addition, the live donor must undergo full mental and physical medical screening and checkup, to make sure the surgery does not jeopardize his/her health, or can result in any health risks.

Donors and/or first and second degree relatives are allowed to change their minds regarding an organ transplantation right before a surgery, specified the MoH circular.

The organ transplantation surgery must take place in only MoH licensed centers, clinics and hospitals across the UAE, the circular states.