

**Private Hospitals and Medical Clinics Act
(CHAPTER 248)**

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PRIVATE HOSPITALS AND MEDICAL CLINICS ACT

(CHAPTER 248)

(Original Enactment: Act 27 of 1980)

REVISED EDITION 1999

(30th December 1999)

An Act to provide for the control, licensing and inspection of private hospitals, medical clinics, clinical laboratories and healthcare establishments, to prohibit trading in human blood, and for purposes connected therewith.

[1st January 1993]

Short title

1. This Act may be cited as the Private Hospitals and Medical Clinics Act.

Interpretation

2. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires —

“authorised officer” means —

- (a) any public officer appointed by the Director under section 3(2) to perform the duties and exercise the powers of the Director under this Act or any regulations made thereunder; and
- (b) any person authorised by the Director under section 3(3) to assist in the administration of this Act;

“clinical laboratory” means any premises used or intended to be used for any type of examination of the human body or of any matter derived therefrom for the purpose of providing information for the diagnosis, prevention or treatment of any disease or for the assessment of the health of any person, or for ascertaining the cause of death or the result of any medical or surgical treatment given to any person, but does not include any such premises —

- (a) which are maintained by the Government or the National University of Singapore;
- (b) which form part of the premises of a licensed private hospital; or
- (c) which are maintained by a medical practitioner or dentist as part of his medical clinic for the exclusive use of his practice;

“dentist” means a person who is duly registered under the Dentists Act 1999 (Act 24 of 1999);

“Director” means the Director of Medical Services;

“healthcare establishment” means any premises or conveyance —

- (a) which is used or intended to be used for the provision of any service, or for carrying out any practice or procedure, that is related to the diagnosis, treatment or care of persons suffering from any disease, injury or disability; and
- (b) which is declared by the Minister, by order published in the *Gazette*, to be a healthcare establishment for the purposes of this Act,

but does not include a private hospital, medical clinic or clinical laboratory or part thereof, or an establishment or conveyance maintained by the Government or the National University of Singapore;

“licence” means a licence issued under this Act to use any premises as a private hospital, medical clinic, clinical laboratory or healthcare establishment, and

“licensed” shall be construed accordingly;

“maternity home” means any premises used or intended to be used for the reception of pregnant women or of women immediately after childbirth;

“medical clinic” means any premises used or intended to be used by a medical practitioner, a dentist or any other person —

- (a) for the diagnosis or treatment of persons suffering from, or believed to be suffering from, any disease, injury or disability of mind or body; or
- (b) for curing or alleviating any abnormal condition of the human body by the application of any apparatus, equipment, instrument or device requiring the use of electricity, heat or light,

but does not include any such premises —

- (i) which are maintained by the Government or the National University of Singapore; or
- (ii) which form part of the premises of a licensed private hospital;

“medical practitioner” means a person who is duly registered under the Medical Registration Act (Cap. 174);

“nursing home” means any premises other than a maternity home used or intended to be used for the reception of, and the provision of nursing for, persons suffering or convalescing from any sickness, injury or infirmity;

“private hospital” means any premises (other than a Government hospital or a hospital maintained by the National University of Singapore) used or intended to be used for the reception, lodging and treatment and care of persons who require medical treatment or suffer from any disease, and includes a maternity home and a nursing home.

[19/99]

Administration of Act and appointment of officers, etc.

3.—(1) The Director shall, subject to the general or special directions of the Minister, be responsible for the administration of this Act.

[19/99]

(2) The Director may, in writing, appoint any public officer to perform all duties imposed and exercise all powers conferred on the Director by this Act or any regulations made thereunder, subject to such conditions and limitations as the Director may specify.

[19/99]

(3) The Director may, in writing, authorise any other person to assist in the

administration of this Act.

[19/99]

(4) The Director and every authorised officer shall be deemed to be public servants within the meaning of the Penal Code (Cap. 224).

[19/99]

(5) The Minister may establish one or more advisory committees consisting of such persons as he may appoint for the purpose of advising on such matters arising out of the administration of this Act as are referred to them by the Minister or the Director.

[2A

[19/99]

Buying and selling of human blood

4.—(1) No person shall —

(a) buy or offer to buy; or

(b) sell, or offer to sell,

human blood or the right to take blood from the body of another person.

(2) Any person who contravenes subsection (1) shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$20,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 2 years or to both.

[3

[19/99]

Licences for private hospitals, medical clinics, clinical laboratories and healthcare establishments

5.—(1) No premises shall be used as a private hospital, medical clinic, clinical laboratory or healthcare establishment except under the authority and in accordance with the terms and conditions of a licence issued by the Director.

[19/99]

(2) If a private hospital, medical clinic, clinical laboratory or healthcare establishment is not licensed or is used otherwise than in accordance with the terms and conditions of its licence, every person having the management or control thereof shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$20,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 2 years or to both.

[19/99]

(3) The Director may order the person having the management or control of any unlicensed private hospital, medical clinic, clinical laboratory or healthcare establishment to close that private hospital, medical clinic, clinical laboratory or healthcare establishment either forthwith or within such time as the Director may