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Standards for Hair Transplant Services Version 3

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Health Policies and Standards Department

Health Regulation Sector (2023)

INTRODUCTION

Health Regulation Sector (HRS) forms an integral part of Dubai Health Authority (DHA) and is mandated by DHA Law No. (14) of 2021 amending some clauses of (6) of 2018 pertaining to the DHA, to undertake several functions including but not limited to:

- Developing regulation, policy, standards, guidelines to improve quality and patient safety and promote the growth and development of the health sector
- Licensure and inspection of health facilities as well as healthcare professionals and ensuring compliance to best practice
- Managing patient complaints and assuring patient and physician rights are upheld
- Governing the use of narcotics, controlled and semi-controlled medications
- Strengthening health tourism and assuring ongoing growth
- Assuring management of health informatics, e-health and promoting innovation

The Standards for Hair Transplant Services aims to fulfil DHA Strategic Priorities (2022-2026):

- Pioneering Human-centered health system to promote trust, safety, quality and care for patients and their families.
- Make Dubai a lighthouse for healthcare governance, integration and regulation.
- Foster healthcare education, research and innovation.
- Strengthening the economic contribution of the health sector, including health tourism to support Dubai economy.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The Health Policy and Standards Department (HPSD) developed this Standard in collaboration with Subject Matter Experts and would like to acknowledge and thank these health professionals for their dedication toward improving quality and safety of healthcare services in the Emirate of Dubai.

Health Regulation Sector

Dubai Health Authority

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Dubai Health Authority (DHA) is pleased to present the version two of the DHA's Hair Transplant Service Standards. This document places an emphasis on facility design and service criteria with a focus on quality of services and safety of patients and healthcare professionals based on international standards of best practices in this domain, while taking into consideration the local and federal laws. The purpose of this Standard is to assure provision of the highest levels of safety and quality Hair Transplant Services in Dubai Health Authority (DHA) licensed health facilities. This document has been revised to keep pace with the evolving healthcare needs and international clinical best practice along with revised language.

Several updates and amendments have been included in the revision including but not limited to:

- Updated Definitions
- Method of Hair Transplantations
- Surgical Logbook requirements and certification requirements
- Patient Selection Criteria

DEFINITIONS

Donor Area: The fringe above the ears and around the back of the head where hair follicles are genetically programmed to remain intact and grow throughout life.

Follicular Units are naturally occurring groupings of hairs. They are sometimes referred to as grafts.

Follicular Unit Excision (FUE) procedure is a method of graft harvest whereby small, naturally occurring follicular units are individually excised with a micro-punch and moved from the permanent donor area to the area of hair loss.

Follicular Unit Hair Transplantation (FUT) is a hair transplant method where a long, thin piece of tissue is removed from the back of the scalp. Individual follicular units are then removed from the strip using stereo-microscopic dissection. Once the follicles have been harvested, the wound is closed leaving behind a single, very fine linear scar.

Hair Transplantation is a surgical method of hair restoration.

ABBREVIATIONS

ABHRS	:	American Board of Hair Restoration Surgery
ACLS	:	Advanced Cardiovascular Life Support
BLS	:	Basic Life Support
DHA	:	Dubai Health Authority
DM	:	Dubai Municipality
DUPA	:	Diffuse Pattern Alopecia
FUT	:	Follicular Unit Transplantation
FUE	:	Follicular Unit Excision
FISHRS	:	Fellow International Society of Hair Restoration Surgery
HFG	:	Health Facility Guidelines
HRS	:	Health Regulation Sector
ICU	:	Intensive Care Unit
PPE	:	Personal Protective Equipment

1. BACKGROUND

Hair transplantation is a minimally invasive surgical procedure of hair restoration. Contemporary hair transplant surgery offers results that are natural and undetectable. It is an excellent treatment option for male and female pattern hair loss. Patients undergoing hair transplantation are encouraged to use medical therapy in conjunction to help protect their surgical results and prevent ongoing thinning of the surrounding hair.

Methods of hair transplant:

- Follicular Unit hair Transplantation (FUT)
- Follicular Unit Excision (FUE)

2. SCOPE

2.1. Hair Transplant Services in DHA licensed health facilities.

3. PURPOSE

3.1. To assure provision of the highest levels of safety and quality Hair Transplant Services in Dubai Health Authority (DHA) licensed health facilities.

4. APPLICABILITY

4.1. DHA licensed healthcare professionals and health facilities providing Hair Transplant services.

5. STANDARD ONE: REGISTRATION AND LICENSURE PROCEDURES

5.1. All health facilities providing Hair Transplant services shall adhere to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Laws and Dubai regulations.

- 5.2. Health facilities aiming to provide Hair Transplant services shall comply with the DHA licensure and administrative procedures available on the DHA website <https://www.dha.gov.ae>.
- 5.3. Hair transplant services can be provided in:
- 5.3.1. Hospitals
 - 5.3.2. Day surgical centres
 - 5.3.3. Outpatient Facilities with procedure room.
- 5.4. Licensed health facilities opting to add Hair Transplant services shall apply to HRS to obtain permission to provide the required service.
- 5.5. The health facility should develop the following policies and procedure; but not limited to:
- 5.5.1. Patient selection criteria
 - 5.5.2. Patient assessment and admission
 - 5.5.3. Patient education and Informed consent
 - 5.5.4. Patient health record
 - 5.5.5. Infection control measures and hazardous waste management
 - 5.5.6. Incident reporting
 - 5.5.7. Patient privacy
 - 5.5.8. Medication management
 - 5.5.9. Emergency action plan

5.5.10. Patient discharge/transfer as per DHA policy for patient referral and inter-facility transfer.

5.6. The health facility shall provide documented evidence of the following:

5.6.1. Transfer of critical/complicated cases when required

5.6.2. Patient discharge

5.6.3. Clinical laboratory services

5.6.4. Equipment maintenance services

5.6.5. Medical waste management as per Dubai Municipality (DM) requirements

5.7. The health facility shall maintain charter of patients' rights and responsibilities posted at the entrance of the premise in two languages (Arabic and English).

5.8. The health facility shall have in place a written plan for monitoring equipment for electrical and mechanical safety, with monthly visual inspections for apparent defects.

5.9. The health facility shall ensure it has in place adequate lighting and utilities, including temperature controls, water taps, medical gases, sinks and drains, lighting, electrical outlets and communications.

6. STANDARD TWO: HEALTH FACILITY REQUIREMENTS

6.1. The health facility should meet the health facility requirement as per the DHA Health Facility Guidelines (HFG).

6.2. Hair transplantation is a minor surgery that can be conducted in a procedure room.

6.3. The health facility shall provide a comfortable care environment for the service with focus on patient safety and privacy.

- 6.4. The health facility shall ensure easy access to patients of determination.
- 6.5. The health facility shall have appropriate equipment and trained healthcare professionals to manage critical and emergency cases.
- 6.6. The health facility shall ensure the availability of:
 - 6.6.1. A sterilization and disinfection room.
 - 6.6.2. A medical waste room.

7. STANDARD THREE: HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS REQUIREMENTS

- 7.1. Healthcare professionals shall obtain a DHA license to practice hair transplant.
- 7.2. The Privileging Committee and/or Medical Director of the health facility shall privilege healthcare professionals with a valid DHA license to practice hair transplant based on their training, experience and competencies.
 - 7.2.1. The privilege shall be reviewed and revised on regular intervals.
- 7.3. All healthcare professionals should maintain an up-to-date surgical logbook of all performed Hair Transplant cases that include the following:
 - 7.3.1. Date
 - 7.3.2. Name
 - 7.3.3. Gender
 - 7.3.4. Graft/follicle numbers
 - 7.3.5. Method of harvesting donor hair
 - 7.3.6. Performed independently or under supervision
 - 7.3.7. Outcome of procedure

7.4. The following DHA licensed physicians can obtain a DHA license to practice hair transplant services:

7.4.1. Plastic Surgeons

7.4.2. Dermatologists, General Surgeons and General practitioners with the additional requirements:

a. Acquire an accredited physician certificate in hair transplant/ restoration surgery from one (1) of the following certifying bodies:

i. American Board of Hair Restoration Surgery (ABHRS)

ii. Fellow International Society of Hair Restoration Surgery (FISHRS)

b. Have at least two (2) years of recent experience in hair transplant along with a logbook of the number of cases for procedures performed and the outcomes.

i. With the exception of General practitioners, whom shall require a total of five (5) years' experience in their field of practice, in addition to the 2 years' experience in hair transplant.

c. Complete DHA assessment

7.5. Hair transplant technicians could be:

7.5.1. Healthcare professionals with BSc or diploma (minimum three (3) years course duration) in allied health with emphasis in hair transplant OR
BSc degree in nursing and certificate confirming on job training and indicate the following:

- a. Training conducted in a licensed hair transplant centre
 - b. Training performed by a licensed hair transplant surgeon.
- 7.6. Hair transplant technicians shall have one (1) year experience in the related field and a minimum of twenty (20) procedures per year.
- 7.7. All licensed healthcare professionals shall be certified in Basic life support (BLS) and Advanced Cardiovascular life support (ACLS).
- 7.8. Physicians performing hair transplant services shall be responsible for demonstrating defined experience and exposure to the discipline's cognitive and technical challenges.
- 7.9. As with other interventional procedures, it is essential that the physicians carrying out hair transplant services receive suitable training and are assessed as competent to perform it.
- 7.10. The physicians have to undergo advanced/ specialized training and achieve a certain minimum level of skills to safely perform hair transplant services and to recognize and treat complications and side effects.
- 7.11. The physician shall only perform one (1) hair transplant procedure at a time.
- 7.12. For advertising and marketing content related to Hair Transplant, the facility shall adhere to the DHA Standards for Medical Advertisement Content.

8. STANDARD FOUR: PATIENT SELECTION

- 8.1. Any person with good donor area, in good general health and reasonable expectations with pattern hair loss can undergo hair transplantation.
- 8.2. Contraindications to Hair Transplant Surgery:

- 8.2.1. Patient with Diffuse Patterned Alopecia (DUPA)
- 8.2.2. Non-androgenetic causes of hair loss
- 8.2.3. Immunocompromised patients.
- 8.2.4. Drug Sensitivities.
- 8.2.5. Keloids.
- 8.2.6. Connective Tissue Disease.
- 8.3. Physicians shall apply caution to the following:
 - 8.3.1. Patients with significant psychiatric problems, particularly Clinical Depression, Trichotillomania, Body Dysmorphic Disorder, or severe Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD). In such cases, a psychiatrist or psychologist should participate in the decision-making process.
 - 8.3.2. Patients with Norwood grade VI or VII with poor hair density.
 - 8.3.3. Patients with unrealistic expectations.
 - 8.3.4. Patients with a significant systemic health problem.
 - 8.3.5. Very young patients whose early alopecia is still evolving. Situations where early surgery may be necessary in young patients (21-23 years of age):
 - a. Advanced hair loss Hamilton–Norwood stages 4–6, which causes severe psychological issues and where drug therapy is unlikely to be beneficial.
 - b. Young patients in professions such as acting, media, modelling, etc, whose career gets affected by postponing surgery.
 - c. Patients who are severely psychologically affected by their baldness.

- d. In cases of tractional alopecia or secondary cicatricial alopecia (burns, trauma, surgical scars over hair-bearing regions).

8.4. Maximum grafts that can be safely harvested will depend on:

- 8.4.1. Safe donor area.
- 8.4.2. Density of both hairs and units of donor area.
- 8.4.3. Head size.
- 8.4.4. Techniques used.
- 8.4.5. Donor skin properties such as elasticity.
- 8.4.6. Age of patient and possibility of future sessions.

9. STANDARD FIVE: PRE-OPERATIVE COUNSELING AND INFORMED CONSENT

- 9.1. As per article (5) of the Federal Law number (4) of 2016 on concerning Medical Liability promulgating the bylaw of the medical liability law, Informed Consent shall be obtained by the treating physician prior to procedure/ surgery and/ or interventions (excluding emergency cases), after discussing the complication, risks, benefits and alternatives.
- 9.2. Consent documentation shall be maintained in the patient's health records.
- 9.3. For further information regarding retention of patient records and materials refer to DHA Policy for Health Information Assets Management.
- 9.4. Detailed informed consent form listing details about the procedure and possible benefits, risks and complications should be signed by the patient.

- 9.5. The cost of surgery and follow-up sessions should be clear to the patients and documented.
- 9.6. The consent form should specifically state the limitations of the procedure and if more procedures are needed for proper results, it should be clearly mentioned.
- 9.7. Patient should be provided with adequate opportunity to seek information through brochures, computer presentations, and personal discussions.
- 9.8. Need for concomitant medical therapy should be emphasized.
- 9.9. Patients should understand that proper hair growth can be expected after about nine (9) months after transplantation.
- 9.10. Preoperative laboratory studies to be performed include but not limited to the following:
- 9.10.1. Hb
- 9.10.2. Blood counts including platelet count
- 9.10.3. Bleeding and clotting time (or prothrombin time and activated partial thromboplastin time)
- 9.10.4. Blood chemistry profile (including sugar)
- 9.10.5. For laboratory service requirements refer to the DHA Standards for Clinical Laboratory Services.

10. STANDARD SIX: PATIENT CARE AND INFECTION CONTROL

- 10.1. The health facility shall provide a comfortable care environment for the service with focus on patient safety and privacy.

10.2. The health facility should accommodate the needs of patients from different cultures and languages; this may include but not limited to, providing information brochures in several languages and providing accessible translators when required.

10.3. Most patients will need concurrent medical treatment since the process of pattern hair loss is progressive and may affect the remaining hairs.

10.4. Follow up visits shall be arranged to ensure outcome of the procedure and continuity of care.

10.5. When healthcare professionals providing hair transplant services adhere to infection control and safety precautions, risks of infection to patients and healthcare professionals is greatly reduced.

10.6. Infection control measures shall be used in the health facility to prevent or reduce the potential for disease transmission, measures shall include but, not limited to the following:

10.6.1. Hand Hygiene

10.6.2. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

10.6.3. Sterilization and disinfection of patient care items

10.6.4. Environmental infection control and Medical Waste Management

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