

## Workshop on 'Organ Donation'

### Summary of the Workshop

Dubai Health Authority (DHA) hosted a workshop under the theme of "Organ Donation". Dr. Marwan Al Mulla, Executive Director of the Health Regulatory Sector - Dubai Health Authority, praised the efforts exerted by all relevant health authorities, which are working hard to produce a comprehensive national program for organ donation and transplantation aimed at relieving the pain of patients in addition to reducing the burden on the health sector, especially the chronic and moral conditions of the patient and their family in accordance with the legislation and standards that ensure the organisation adopt best international practices. The workshop was held with the participation of the National Committee for Organ Transplantation, chaired by Dr. Ali Abdulkarim Al Obeidli and was hosted by representatives of the Donating and Organ Transplantation Foundation in Barcelona - Spain, headed by Prof. Francesco Procaccio on Tuesday, November 6, 2018, in the Auditorium of Rashid Hospital. Intensive care and emergency care medical and technical teams were invited from public and private sector hospitals in Dubai to attend the scientific workshop to encourage exchange of expertise and experiences between the two sides and to learn about the latest developments in organ transplantation programs, especially Spain. Over 70 people in the concerned field from the public and private health sector attended the workshop.

Dr. Ali Abdulkarim Al-Obaidli explained that the main points of discussion in the seminar were to provide an overview of the organ transplantation program in the United Arab Emirates, set

out the objectives of organizing the procedures and organ transplants, share international best practices, and the standard procedures for organ donation and activation of the brain death protocol in the United Arab Emirates thus, ensuring that the UAE follows uniform standards across all medical facilities, raise the level of cooperation between intensive care units, enable the largest number of people to donate, provide the required support to hospitals to donate and build complementary relationships between hospitals and at the state level.

The seminar also reviewed the successes of the program, including activation of the brain death protocol. Since the launch of the program, 30 patient lives with organ failure were saved from 9 donors after brain death (including the cultivation of the heart, lungs, liver, pancreas, kidneys) thus, enabling those who wish to donate to exercise their right to save the lives of others and return to normal life. It was highlighted that the success of organ transplantation could potentially be in the near future provide one of the most important solutions to a number of core diseases, such as kidney failure and liver failure which will be reflected positively on the UAE's global position in the field and, as an example to follow through the application of best international practices and latest healthcare standards.

Dr. Hanan Obaid, Health Policies & Standard Department director pointed out that the health regulation sector is in the process of forming a local committee to regulate the transport and transplantation of organs and tissues in the Emirate of Dubai and to standardize and regulate the process of organ transplantation and in accordance with the regulations and provisions stipulated in Federal Law No. (5) of 2016 on regulating the transfer and transplantation of organs and tissues which provides an integrated legislative system for organ transplantation with the criteria for organ donation and the need to respect the specific conditions and controls. Dr. Hanan Obaid also referred to Federal Law No. (5) of 2016 issued by His Highness Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE, on regulating the transfer and transplantation of human organs and tissues, and Ministerial Resolution No. 550 of 2017, and the controls of brain death and the responsibility of local regulatory health authorities in the application of legislation and the implementation of its provisions.

The workshop included the need to raise awareness and educate healthcare professionals on the importance of expanding transplantation programs which will improve the chances of normal life for patients waiting on the national list with organ failure, the importance of launching awareness campaigns to encourage parents and relatives of patients to approve the donation of human organs from deceased patients, joining efforts to ensure the success of transplant programs in the country and as a priority, developing this field to alleviate patients suffering from organ failure and those on waiting lists with the hope of live saving organ donation. The symposium also highlighted the need to adhere to and abide to the legislative provisions governing the organ donation process and the controls and conditions regulating this area.

Participants highlighted the need to overcome the challenges facing the donation program in the United Arab Emirates and the requirements to ensure the success of the program and as part of the development of the health system to improve the health of others in accordance with international best practices as well as medical and technical competencies.

The seminar concluded with the reception of Dr. Fahd Bussalib, Executive Director of Rashid Hospital and the Health Regulatory Sector staff. The attendees toured the hospital's intensive care units and observed the services provided to the visitors as well as the professionals who provide high quality and safe care services to patients.

-----**The End**-----



### UAE Standardized Organ Donation Procedure Patient with a prognosis of impending death







