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Standards for Hair Transplant Services Version 2

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Health Policies and Standards Department

Health Regulation Sector (2022)

INTRODUCTION

Health Regulation Sector (HRS) forms an integral part of Dubai Health Authority (DHA) and is mandated by DHA Law No. (6) of 2018 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:

- Introduction of General Practitioners to be able to provide hair transplant services with the required training, experience and privileges.

DEFINITIONS

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

Follicular unit Extraction (FUE) is a method of graft harvest whereby punches of various types are used to remove follicular units from the donor region one at a time.

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.

Mini-micro-grafting involves removing thin strips of skin containing hair follicles from the back of the scalp and placing them in tiny holes in the bald or thinned area. Holes are created by a laser in order to create a natural appearance. The grafted hair falls out after the procedure but then grows back.

Ultra-Refined Follicular Unit Transplantation (URFUT) involves transplanting a thin strip of skin containing hair is surgically removed from the donor area, an area around the back and sides of a patient's head which is less susceptible to the balding process.

ABBREVIATIONS

ABHRS	:	American Board of Hair Restoration Surgery
ACLS	:	Advanced Cardiovascular Life Support
BAHRS	:	British Association of Hair Restoration Surgery
BLS	:	Basic Life Support
FUT	:	Follicular Unit Transplantation
FUE	:	Follicular Unit Extraction
ISHRS	:	International Society of Hair Restoration Surgery
PPE	:	Personal Protective Equipment
URFUT	:	Ultra Refined Follicular Unit Transplantation

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 Extraction (FUE)
- Ultra-Refined Follicular Unit Transplantation (URFUT)
- Mini-micro-grafting

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 inform Health Regulation Sector (HRS) and 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.
- 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.
- 6.7. Facilities opting to perform Hair Transplant services that do not have fully equipped Intensive Care Unit (ICU) capabilities shall have ventilators, hemodynamic monitoring equipment and a crash cart on-site to perform necessary patient resuscitation.

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. The following DHA licensed physicians can obtain a DHA license to practice hair transplant services:
 - 7.3.1. Plastic Surgeons

7.3.2. 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. International Society of Hair Restoration Surgery (ISHRS)
 - iii. American Hair Loss Association
 - iv. British Association of Hair Restoration Surgery (BAHRS)
- 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

7.4. Hair transplantation is a team effort. Hair transplant technicians help assist the above physicians to conduct hair transplantation.

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 two (2) years' experience in the related field and perform a minimum of twenty (20) procedures/ 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 achieved a certain minimum level of skills to safely perform hair transplant services and to recognize and treat complications and side effects.

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. In very young patients whose early alopecia is still evolving, patients with Norwood grade VI or VII with poor hair density, patients with unrealistic expectations and patients with significant systemic health problems, physicians should exercise caution.

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. Detailed informed consent form listing details about the procedure and possible benefits, risks and complications should be signed by the patient.
- 9.4. 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.
- 9.5. Patient should be provided with adequate opportunity to seek information through brochures, computer presentations, and personal discussions.
- 9.6. Need for concomitant medical therapy should be emphasized.
- 9.7. Patients should understand that proper hair growth can be expected after about nine (9) months after transplantation.
- 9.8. Preoperative laboratory studies to be performed include Hb%, blood counts including platelet count, bleeding and clotting time (or prothrombin time and activated partial thromboplastin time), blood chemistry profile including sugar.

10. STANDARD SIX: PATIENT CARE

- 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.

11. STANDARD SEVEN: INFECTION CONTROL

- 11.1. 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.
- 11.2. 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:
- 11.2.1. Hand Hygiene
 - 11.2.2. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
 - 11.2.3. Sterilization and disinfection of patient care items
 - 11.2.4. Environmental infection control and Medical Waste Management

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