

CIRCULAR NO (DHP/2024/07)

From	Department of Healthcare Professions (DHP)/ Ministry of Public Health (MOPH)
To	All healthcare providers in the State of Qatar (facilities and practitioners)
Subject	The use of patient identifiers prior and during the episodes of healthcare service provision
Date	28/02/2024

Greetings from Department of Healthcare Professions (DHP) / Ministry of Public Health (MOPH),

Based on the regulatory and supervisory role of the DHP in regulating health practices and services in the country in accordance with The Ministerial Decree No. (9) of 2022 related to patients' rights and responsibilities, to reliably identify the individual as the person for whom the service or treatment is intended and to match the service or treatment to that individual, The Ministry of Health Emphasizes the primary responsibility of health-care providers to check the identity of patients and match the correct patients with the correct care before that care is administered.

Thus, DHP urges all health providers to follow the below guidelines to confirm that clients receive the service or procedure intended for them to avoid harmful incidents such as privacy breaches, allergic reactions, medication errors, and wrong-person procedures:

1. Checking identity of the patient using a minimum of two acceptable patient identifiers to correctly match patients to an intended health care services that may be the individual's full name, an assigned identification number, telephone number, date of birth, other person-specific identifier (passport copy in case of visiting patient/encrypted wristbands in facilities with large capacity) or any other internationally recognized identifiers.
2. The used patient identifiers should be consistent within each healthcare setting facility (type/capacity) and that staff are trained and comply with the process.
3. Checking the patient's identity before and during the episode of care (upon registration/ before seeking consent or providing treatment, diagnostic procedures, dispensing medications), and any other patient related activity such as (requesting and receiving medical reports/ sick leaves/ certificate of attendance/companion certificates).

This circular is effective from the date of its issuance, all necessary legal actions will be taken in case of non-compliance.

For queries, please contact us via ftpenquiry@moph.gov.qa

Thank you for your cooperation!