



March 19, 2024

TIP 2024/0319/2A

Syed Murad Ali Shah,  
Chief Minister, Sindh  
Chief Minister House,  
Karachi.

**Subject: Complaint against Allegations of Misuse of Public Funds for Liver Transplant Program being Provided by the Government of Sindh to a Private Hospital**

Dear Sir,

Transparency International Pakistan has received a complaint against the allegations of misuse of public funds for liver transplants being provided by the government of Sindh to a private hospital.

The complainant has made the following allegations:

That,

1. The GoS established Gambat Institute of Medical Sciences which is providing liver transplants free of cost to underprivileged patients. Over the years, GIMS has performed 1000s of liver transplant procedures.
2. On the other hand, the GoS has been providing millions to different hospitals in Karachi to provide free liver transplants at an extravagant cost.
3. In November 2021, the GoS approved the provision of Rs145 million to the Dow University of Health Sciences (DUHS) for conducting 50 liver transplants free of charge (Annex-A). On average, GoS has provided Rs. 2.9 million per patient to DUHS.
4. It is alleged that the GoS is providing approx. Rs. 4 million per patient to a private hospital in Karachi for liver transplant. On top of the Government support per patient, the hospital also charges extra to the patients.
5. The apparent objective & target is to damage the credibility of GIMS Liver transplant program so that other hospitals can run their Liver transplant programs and earn money through government support.

**Transparency International Pakistan's Comments**

Transparency International Pakistan has reviewed the allegations of the complaint, prima facie the allegations seem correct. Following are TI Pakistan comments;

1. Efforts must be made to ensure and uphold the credibility of public sector institutions such as Gambat Institute of Medical Sciences (GIMS) liver transplant program to continue to provide free healthcare service to the citizens.
2. The allegations of provision of approx. Rs. 4 million per patient to a private hospital for liver transplant raises concerns about transparency and integrity.

**Transparency International Pakistan's Recommendations**

Transparency International Pakistan request the Chief Minister to examine the allegations and if the found to be correct, take action as per the law.

Transparency International Pakistan is striving for across the board application of Rule of Law, which is the only way to stop corruption, and achieve Zero tolerance against corruption.

Sincerely,

  
Advocate Daniyal Muzaffar,  
Trustee/Legal Advisor  
Transparency International Pakistan



Copies forwarded for the information with request to take action under their mandate to:

1. Chief Secretary Sindh, Karachi
2. Minister, Ministry of Health, Karachi
3. Secretary, Department of Health, Karachi
4. Registrar, Sindh High Court, Karachi

**Note:**

This is to clarify that Transparency International Pakistan is not a complainant, it acts as a whistleblower and operate under Article 19-A, of the Constitution of Pakistan which gives the right to public to know how government is being run by public officers. Article 19-A makes the right to access of information pertaining to a public authority a fundamental right, and a three member bench in case of Mukhtar Ahmad Ali vs the Registrar, Supreme Court of Pakistan, Islamabad, headed by Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa in the landmark judgment on 16 October 2023, in CP No. 3532/2023, has declared that

“What previously may have been on a need-to-know basis Article 19A of the Constitution has transformed it to a right-to-know, and the Access to information is no longer a discretion granted through occasional benevolence, but is now a fundamental right available with every Pakistani which right may be invoked under Article 19A of the Constitution”

## **Dow starts free liver transplants after receiving Rs145m govt grant**

**By M. Waqar Bhatti**  
April 10, 2022

The Dow University of Health Sciences (DUHS) Karachi has started performing free liver transplants of underprivileged patients after receiving a grant of Rs145 million from the Sindh government to conduct some 50 surgeries, officials said on Saturday.

"We have started performing free-of-charge liver transplant surgeries of needy and deserving patients who couldn't afford this costly procedure after the Sindh government provided us with Rs145 million to conduct around 50 transplants on the provincial government's expense," DUHS Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Saeed Quraishy told The News.

Gastroenterologist Dr Saad Khalid Niaz played a key role in persuading the provincial government to provide the funds to the university for performing free liver transplants, government officials said, adding that they are providing funds to the DUHS for liver as well as bone marrow transplants.

Dr Quraishy said that around 50 liver transplants have been performed at the university under the supervision of liver transplant surgeon Dr Faisal Saud Dar, who heads the Pakistan Kidney and Liver Institute & Research Institute Lahore.

"In addition to 50 liver transplants, our BMT [bone marrow transplant] surgeons have performed 24 or 25 bone marrow transplants, for which funds were provided by the provincial government."

He said the university also bears the expenses of treatment of those patients who could not afford costly surgeries and treatment at its state-of-the-art hospital.

The VC said that in addition to liver and bone marrow transplant surgeries, surgeons at the university had performed nearly 500 renal transplants, adding that the expenses of some of these surgeries were also borne by the provincial government. The DUHS had resumed its liver transplant programme in 2019 when it had approached Pakistan's leading liver transplant surgeon Dr Dar to supervise the complicated surgeries. So far 17 liver transplants have been carried out by surgeons at the Ojha campus of the university.

Dr Quraishy noted that the success rate of liver transplant surgeries at the DUHS was over 95 per cent, saying that under the supervision of Dr Dar, their team had even

## Annex-A

performed the country's first liver autotransplant, adding that the patient had been living a normal life since the procedure. "Our team of liver transplant surgeons comprises lead surgeon Dr Jahanzeb Haider, Dr Kiran Naz, Dr Muhammad Iqbal and three others. This is a highly trained and skilled team of youngsters who are performing liver transplant surgeries with the utmost sophistication."

The VC said they had already been performing liver transplants at highly subsidised rates, but most of the patients approaching them for the surgeries could not afford the costly treatment. He added that following the provincial government's support, the most deserving patients would be able to avail the treatment.

Replying to a query, he said that a liver transplant surgery costs between Rs3 million and Rs4 million if the procedure goes without any complication. He added that with the help of the Rs145 million, they would hopefully be able to perform up to 50 liver transplants by June next year. An official of the health department said that according to the laid down criteria, the department would send patients to the DUHS for liver transplants after a thorough assessment through medical boards. The official said that currently, only the Gambat Institute of Medical Sciences in Khairpur is performing free liver transplant surgeries, but after the provision of Rs145 million to the DUHS, two institutes in Sindh will be conducting free liver transplant surgeries.

Dr Niaz, coordinator for the Liver Transplant Unit and member of the DUHS Syndicate, expressed gratitude to the chief minister for the provision of Rs145 million to the university. He said he had personally requested the CM to provide the money so that free liver transplant surgeries could be performed for the needy and deserving patients.

"Around 8,000 patients need liver transplant surgeries due to liver failure or liver cancer annually in Pakistan. Most of these patients can't afford the costly treatment. Because of the Sindh government's programme, patients can now avail the facility of liver transplants free of charge in Karachi too."