

ROYAL GOVERNMENT OF BHUTAN  
MINISTRY OF FINANCE

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19/MFS/01/ 3945

May 23, 2001

CIRCULAR

**Subject: Medical Treatment Abroad**

In compliance with Government approval conveyed to this Ministry, the following rules for medical treatment abroad, other than in India, are hereby notified. These rules and procedures supersede the Ministry of Finance Circular No. F.10(14)-83/2075 dated 15 July 1983.

1. **Authority**

Medical treatment abroad, including review cases, may be undertaken only under the Command of His Majesty the King.

2. **Referral Committee**

The Referral Committee under the Ministry of Health and Education shall determine the nature and extent of treatment necessary for all such authorised cases.

3. **Place of referral/mechanism**

Hospital/institutes/duration etc. shall be determined by the Referral Committee based on the type of case and existing referral points.

4. **Entitlements**

Referrals shall be on a cost-sharing basis. The Government will bear expenses only for the referred patient and only on account of the following: -

- a) Economy air fare to and from the place of referral.
- b) Actual treatment and hospitalisation expenses.

Note: No daily subsistence allowance (DSA) shall be admissible for the patient and no escort shall be permitted at Government cost.


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5. Payment and Accounts

- a) All payments shall be made by the Ministry of Finance.
- b) Payments shall be based on the recommendation of the Referral Committee on the nature and place of treatment being undertaken under Royal Command.
- c) The cost of air tickets shall be reimbursed to the patients on submission of the air-tickets.
- d) The payments for the actual treatment shall be paid through the Royal Bhutanese Embassies/Missions abroad.
- e) The Finance Ministry and the Ministry of Health and Education shall coordinate closely to monitor the expenditures.

These rules come into immediate effect and shall apply to old (on going) as well as new approved cases.



Wangdi Norbu  
Finance Secretary

To,

1. All Heads of Ministries
2. Secretaries to Government
3. Secretary to His Majesty the King, Tashichho Dzong.
4. The Auditor General, Royal Audit Authority, Thimphu.
5. The Cabinet Secretary, Tashichho Dzong
6. Secretary, Ministry of Health and Education, Thimphu, for necessary action. This has reference to letter No. MHE/COM/2001/7519 dated 1 May 2001 of the Ministry of Health and Education.
7. The Deputy Secretary, AFD, Ministry of Finance, for necessary action.