

Medical News

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Fighting Chronic Diseases

On 10 July 2011, the Cabinet decided to form a national committee to combat chronic diseases. The meeting was presided by The Prime Minister, HRH Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa. The committee will formulate a national plan to combat non-contagious diseases. It will include programs and initiatives to boost the health of all age groups. The committee will be taken over by the Minister of Health and it will include representatives from the relevant government authorities.

Organ Donation

The Ministry of Health will launch a nationwide campaign promoting organ donations soon. Those who are willing to donate their organs will be provided with an identity card. Doctors will be authorized to harvest organs from the deceased, if they are listed as 'card holders', without seeking permission from their families. The campaign aims to create organ donation culture in Bahrain. Awareness campaigns and lectures will be held at all health and various social centers, NGOs and government organizations.

The campaign aims to attract donation of kidney, liver, bone marrow and pancreas. The ministry of health has serious plans to start liver transplant at the SMC.

The ministry will also reinforce cooperation with hospitals in Saudi Arabia to treat patients and exchange organs.

Device 'to End Need for Blood Donation'

A revolutionary device introduced in Bahrain could limit the need for people to donate blood. The German Orthopedic Hospital has invested in a highly sophisticated "Cell Saver Device" that collects, cleans and returns blood lost in surgery back to the patient. Therefore, HIV,

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Hepatitis and other diseases transmitted through blood transfusion are eliminated, as well as, antibody reaction is avoided. Patient recovery is expected to improve because of the device.

Health Ministry Home Page Hacked

The home page of the Health Ministry (moh.gov.bh) was hacked on 24 May 2011. The hackers, who struck at around 5 pm, replaced the page with pictures of anti-government protests, demonstrations at the GCC (Pearl Roundabout) and other propaganda material. Following the incident, the home page was shut down and was fixed within one day.

The website is used by patients to schedule appointments. It also has information on ministry services and health statistics.

New Health Center

A new health centre in Hidd will be opened during Eid Al Fitr, a Health Ministry official announced. The Bank of Bahrain and Kuwait-funded centre will have 61 employees and serve more than 20,000 people.

Medical Tests for Blind Students

On 25 May 2011, medical treatment was provided to children from the Saudi-Bahrain Institute for the blind as part of a Community Outreach Program by Standard Chartered Bank and the American Mission Hospital (AMH).

More than 30 children from the Institute received complete physical examinations, hearing, vision, blood and general tests. The program partnership is part of Standard Chartered's global initiative to help tackle preventable and curable blindness.

Hospital Set to Mark 'No Tobacco Day'

On 31 May 2011, the American Mission Hospital (AMH) marked 'World No Tobacco Day' with a free guidance clinic on the effects of smoking on people's health.

The clinic was opened from 9 am to 9 pm at the AMH, chest department, and was supervised by a team of hospital physicians. 'World No Tobacco Day' marked by the World Health Organization (WHO) is observed on May 31 each year.

According to WHO, five million people die every year from tobacco-related illnesses and that figure is expected to rise to 10 million by 2020.

New Push to Fight Tobacco Addiction

Bahrain is fully committed to fighting the epidemic of tobacco and has stepped up national efforts to control consumption and treatment of addicts.

Bahrain is dedicated in implementing the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC).

The National Anti-smoking and Tobacco Committee had worked to ban smoking in shopping malls, schools, universities, restaurants, the airport and work places.

Bahrain Anti-Smoking Society member, Dr. Kadhem Al Hawaji, said that the theme for this year's 'World No Tobacco Day' was the WHO FCTC, which has been signed by 172 states, including Bahrain.

Dr. Kadhem Al Hawaji said, "The aim is to protect people from the hazards of tobacco use", he said. There is still a lot to be done but we can see people no longer smoke in the airport, malls or cold stores. No one is allowed to smoke in his own car if he is accompanied by individuals under 18 years old. We want to enforce these laws".

REFERENCES

1. GDN, Daily Tribune and MOH intranet webpage.