

NEW RULES OF BUSINESS FOR DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA

The recently approved new Rules of business for Department of Health (Table 1) has addressed not only the missing and out of sync components of the old Rules of Business but has added visionary and futuristic structures that would help the Department of Health (DoH) to serve people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for the foreseeable future. It has incorporated the once Federal functions such as policy and planning. It has ensured promotion of health through health education, advocacy and community involvement. It has taken notice of prevention of communicable as well as non-communicable diseases in order to reduce the load of curative services with consequent reduction in health expenditure. It has also paid attention to often neglected, occupational and environmental health. It has expanded and elaborated upon curative and rehabilitative care; and health related disaster preparedness and response.

The segment of ‘Regulation and Enforcement’ would ensure enforcement of laws and regulations with regards to drugs, food, sanitation, health personnel, health facilities and services they render. ‘Systems support services’ would help plan, develop and manage health personnel. Appropriate, cost effective and transparent procurement of equipment, disposables and medicine and their delivery through scientifically developed supply chain has been included. The inclusion of legal cell cannot be overemphasized to provide medico-legal advice to the court of law, help DoH in cases of litigation, review the existing laws, suggest amendments in health related laws and formulate new legislation if circumstances demand.

Generation of evidence for informed decision making is the most important but virtually neglected part of our health system. This has led to haphazard growth of the health facilities and fragmentation of health department. The new Rules of Business have put emphasis on ‘Evidence Generation’ along with monitoring and evaluation of the performance of health personnel, health facilities and services they provide.

Recently Approved Post 18th Amendment Allocation of Business to Health Department for Rules of Business 2011, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (Table 1)

	Leadership and Direction Setting for the Department of Health
i.	Health Policy and Reforms
ii.	Health Planning, Financing and Budgeting
	Health Support and Development
i.	Health Promotion
a)	Health Education
b)	Community Involvement and Advocacy
ii.	Disease Prevention and Control
a)	Communicable Diseases
b)	Non-communicable Diseases
iii.	Occupational Health
iv.	Environmental Health
v.	Curative and Rehabilitative Care
a)	Primary, Secondary and Tertiary Level Curative Services including Mental Health
b)	Rehabilitative Care
vi.	Health Related Preparedness and Response to Disasters
	Health Regulation and Enforcement
i.	Health Personnel, Facilities and Services
ii.	Levying of Charges by Health Care providers and Facilities
iii.	Quality Management
a)	Facilities and Services
iv.	Drugs Control
v.	Food and Sanitation
a)	Prevention and Control of Adulteration in Food
b)	<i>Monitoring & Reporting upon Safe Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Services</i>
vi.	Devices and Technology
	Systems Support Services
i.	Health Human Resources Planning
ii.	Health Human Resource Development
a)	Provision of Quality Medical and Allied Education
b)	Pre-service Training of Support Medical and Health Professionals
c)	In-service Training of Health related Human Resource
iii.	Health related Human Resources Management
iv.	Logistics and Procurement
v.	Internal Audit and Accounting
vi.	Legal Services for Department of Health
a)	Legal & Medico-legal Advice and Litigation
b)	Law Review, Amendment, Formulation
	Monitoring and Evaluation
i.	Generation of Evidence
a)	Performance Assessment
b)	Information and Communication Systems
c)	Health, Medical and Allied Research
ii.	Knowledge Management for Evidence Based Decision Making
	Coordination
	Ministries, Departments, Local and International Partners and Donors.

DoH cannot work in isolation. It has to coordinate with other Departments of the Government, legislative bodies, national and international partners. This business of coordination has been included in the new Rules of Business. In summary, at last, Department of Health has got comprehensive and futuristic 'Rules of Business' which reflects the vision of the Constitution of Islamic Republic of Pakistan. We are grateful to Syed Zahir Ali Shah, Minister for Health, Khyber

Pakhtunkhwa and Honourable Amir Haider Khan Hoti, Chief Minister, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for approving the new Rules of Business for DoH.

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