

Foreign Nationals must be Informed about India's Organ Transplant Regulations, says Union Health Ministry

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Union Health Ministry, in its communication in June 2024 to the Ministries of External Affairs and Home Affairs, highlighted the need to educate foreign nationals visiting India for organ transplants about the country's policies and regulations governing organ donation and transplant procedures.

India is becoming a leading destination for foreigners seeking organ transplants due to its world-class medical facilities and highly skilled medical professionals. Consequently, it is essential that these individuals are well-informed about the legal framework in India before undergoing such procedures.

It is recommended that the messages and materials provided by the Union Health Ministry be displayed on the websites and portals of the Ministry of Home Affairs' Bureau of Immigration, airports, and the websites of the Ministry of External Affairs, as well as Indian embassies and missions abroad, to ensure effective dissemination.

Before removing or transplanting human organs or tissues, foreign citizens travelling to India for living donor transplants must obtain approval from authorization committee constituted by the State or Centre. The relationship between the donor and recipient must be certified on the required form by a senior

official from the embassy of the country of origin in India. If there is no embassy in India, the government of that country will issue the relationship certificate through a similar process.

Foreign nationals who require deceased donor transplants can also register in India through the hospital, and their information will be added to the waiting list. These situations, however, would only be taken into consideration for organ distribution if no suitable Indian patient was available nationwide.

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