

# Qatar blacklists four hospitals in Kerala

Four hospitals in the southern Indian state of Kerala have been blacklisted by Qatar's Supreme Council of Health (SCH) for issuing fake employment certificates to health care practitioners seeking a licence to practice in Doha.

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Manama: Four hospitals in the southern Indian state of Kerala have been blacklisted by Qatar's Supreme Council of Health (SCH) for issuing fake employment certificates to health care practitioners seeking a licence to practice in Doha.

Investigations conducted by the Permanent Licensing Committee (PLC) at SCH have confirmed that the facilities had been issuing certificates that were either bogus or contained false information to several physicians, nurses and other health professionals seeking jobs in Qatar, a senior official of the Medical Licensing Department (MLD) at SCH told Qatari daily The Peninsula.

The blacklisting decision of the hospitals was posted on the SCH website.

According to the daily, facilities will be blacklisted in other GCC countries as well since the SCH has already passed over the information to health authorities in these states in line with a GCC Ministerial decision taken in 1983 regarding the exchange of information related to health practitioners.

"We have also informed the International Association of Medical Regulatory Authorities (IAMRA) based in the US about our decision so that they can take appropriate action," Dr Jamal Rashid Al Khanj, MLD director, said, quoted by the paper.

The blacklisted hospitals are: Sree Venkateswara Hospital based in the Alappuzha District of Kerala, Elite Hospital in Chingavanam, St Augustine Hospital in Ramapuram Bazar in Kottayam district and Janatha Hospital in Thekkumbhagam.

The SCH will no longer accept certificates issued by these facilities. Applications from health professionals seeking a SCH licence using experience certificates provided by these hospitals will be rejected and such applicants would be blacklisted in Qatar and the GCC countries, the paper reported on Friday.

Al Khanji said the PLC had launched an investigation, following suspicions about the reliability of the experience certificates issued by these hospitals.

MLD has tied up with a international agency for scrutinising the credentials of private health care professionals seeking a licence to practice in Qatar.

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