



A brief report on the services provided to the elderly from a social and health perspective in the Kingdom of Bahrain

In the interest of the esteemed government of the Kingdom of Bahrain in caring for an important segment of society, which is the elderly, the Ministry of Labour and Social Development, has paid attention to this category by issuing laws and legislation that protect and preserve the rights of the elderly. It has issued a decision to have the Ministry of Social Development's decision No. (1) of 2011 to issue the executive regulations for Law No. (58) of 2009 regarding the rights of the elderly, which is concerned with issuing licenses to house or care for the elderly and provide the necessary services to them within binding provisions, conditions and specifications.

- An electronic service has been launched on the government website (e-government) showing the services provided to the elderly: (elderly service discount card, service of disbursing prosthetic devices for the elderly).
- Among the services and programs provided to the elderly in the Ministry of Labour and Social Development is facilitating their access to all services under one roof. Decision No. 9 of 2013 was issued regarding the establishment of an office for elderly services. Accordingly, the office for elderly services was opened under the Social Welfare Department of the Ministry in 2014.

Office Location:

The Elderly Services Office is located in the Abdullah Bin Yousef Fakhro Social Centre in Isa Town, and provides its services to citizens during official working hours.

Objectives:

1. Providing a discount card for the elderly.
2. Facilitating requests to benefit from social clubs for parental care and permanent care homes and requests for devices and aids for the elderly.
3. Implementing a package of programs and services that support raising the quality of life for the elderly in the Kingdom of Bahrain.
4. Implementing programs that support raising the quality of life for the elderly and stemming from the National Strategy for the Elderly.
5. Providing family and social consultations for the elderly and their families.
6. Conducting surveys for the elderly.



Target group:

- The elderly group over 60 years old and above.
- The group approaching the post-60 stage by providing awareness programs to qualify them to enter the leadership stage with complete independence and without the need for change.

Services provided by the office:

1. Issuing the elderly card and introducing the elderly in the Kingdom of Bahrain to the discount card and the entities that benefit from it.
2. Introducing the services provided by the Ministry of Labour and Social Development in the Kingdom of Bahrain to the elderly.
3. Providing programs and services provided by the Ministry of Labour and Social Development to the elderly in the Kingdom of Bahrain under one roof.
4. Providing a package of programs and services that support raising the quality of life for the elderly in the Kingdom of Bahrain and implementing the National Strategy for the Elderly.
5. Encouraging the family to care for the elderly in their homes and providing all services that ensure that there is no need for permanent housing in nursing homes.
6. Providing preparation and rehabilitation programs for citizens approaching the age stage after 60 years to be independent and self-reliant elderly.
7. Providing family and social consultations for the elderly and their families.
8. Receiving requests for aids and prosthetic devices for the elderly in the Kingdom of Bahrain.
9. Implementing the quality of life test for the elderly.

Summary of elderly services in government hospitals:

1. Acute treatment at Salmaniya Medical Complex for acute cases such as infections, strokes and fractures.
2. Psychological treatment for the elderly in a psychiatric hospital such as treatment for dementia or depression.
3. Long-term stay for patients in need of round-the-clock nursing care at Muharraq Hospital for the Elderly.
4. Rehabilitation and vocational treatment at Ebrahim Khalil Kanoo Health and Social Centre for patients suffering from strokes, fractures or multiple chronic diseases.



5. Educational programs for caregivers at home on how to care for the elderly for patients admitted to rehabilitation centres and acute hospitals.
6. Providing physiotherapy in outpatient clinics at Salmaniya Medical Complex.
7. Follow-up of patients with chronic diseases in outpatient clinics for various specialties in order to address their health, psychological and vocational needs.
8. Social assessment of the elderly and caregivers and providing the necessary guidance and advice and arranging with the relevant authorities in the Kingdom to provide the necessary support from the Ministry of Social Development and charitable societies.
9. Evaluation by a nutritionist to provide the necessary treatment for proper nutrition
10. Coordination with care centres Primary care is provided by mobile units at home and supplies for home care of the elderly.

Note: Home care and home visits are provided by mobile units at primary care centres.

How to submit a request to admit an elderly person for long-term stay and obtain health care:

This is done by submitting a request from the patient himself or the patient's family (the person responsible for him and with the family's approval) in the event of the patient's incapacity to the competent authority in one of the government hospitals. There are several procedures followed in this case:

- 1- Examination of the patient by the specialist doctor.
- 2- Consent of the patient himself if he is aware and competent to make the decision.
- 3- Requesting certain tests and examining the results.
- 4- Preparing a social report on the condition in one of the government hospitals and filling out a special form for transfer with signature.
- 5- Attaching a copy of the patient's card and the person responsible for him.