

SENATE OF PAKISTAN
House of the Federation

Report No.03



**REPORT OF THE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON
NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICES, REGULATIONS AND COORDINATION**

ON

**THE CALLING ATTENTION NOTICE REFERRED BY THE HOUSE IN
ITS SITTING HELD ON 6TH SEPTEMBER, 2024 MOVED BY SENATOR
MOHSIN AZIZ, REGARDING DISPARITIES IN CHARGES FOR THE
LAB TESTS IN VARIOUS PRIVATE LABORATORIES**

PRESENTED BY

Senator Amir Waliuddin Chishti
Chairman

**Senate Standing Committee on National Health Services,
Regulations and Coordination**

SENATE SECRETARIAT

Subject: REPORT OF THE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICES, REGULATIONS AND COORDINATION ON A "CALLING ATTENTION NOTICE REFERRED BY THE HOUSE IN ITS SITTING HELD ON 6TH SEPTEMBER, 2024 MOVED BY SENATOR MOHSIN AZIZ REGARDING DISPARITIES IN CHARGES FOR THE LAB TESTS IN VARIOUS PRIVATE LABORATORIES"

I, Senator Amir Waliuddin Chishti, Chairman Standing Committee on National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination have the honor to present, on behalf of Committee, this report on a "Calling Attention Notice referred by the House in its sitting held on 6th September, 2024 moved by Senator Mohsin Aziz, regarding disparities in charges for the lab tests in various private laboratories" to the Committee for consideration and report.

2. The composition of the Committee is as under:-

1.	Senator Amir Waliuddin Chishti	Chairman
2.	Senator Abdul Qudoos	Member
3.	Senator Palwasha Mohammed Zai Khan	Member
4.	Senator Syed Masroor Ahsan	Member
5.	Senator Liaqat Khan Tarakai	Member
6.	Senator Mohammad Humayun Mohmand	Member
7.	Senator Irfan-ul-Haque Siddiqui	Member
8.	Senator Anusha Rahman Ahmad Khan	Member
9.	Senator Ahmed Khan	Member
10.	Senator Fawzia Arshad	Member
11.	Coordinator to PM for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination	Ex-officio Member

3. The Committee took up the matter of Calling Attention Notice in its meeting held on 14th November, 2024 with following Members of the Committee in attendance:

1)	Senator Anusha Rahman Ahmed Khan	Member
2)	Senator Irfan-ul-Haque Siddiqui	Member
3)	Senator Palwasha Mohammad Zai Khan	Member
4)	Senator Masroor Ahsan	Member
5)	Senator Muhammad Humayun Mohmand	Member
6)	Senator Fawzia Ahshad	Member
7)	Coordinator to PM for NHR&C	Ex-officio Member
8)	Senator Mohsin Aziz	(Mover)

4. The Committee invited and heard all the stakeholders including Senator Mohsin Aziz, mover of the Calling Attention Notice. Dr. Quaid Saeed, CEO, Islamabad Healthcare Regulatory Authority (IHRA) gave detailed briefing on the issue of disparities in charges of lab tests in various private laboratories and steps taken by IHRA in this respect. The Committee thoroughly discussed the matter pertaining to medical tests being conducted in

Islamabad along-with their rates being charged from the patients. The Committee showed concerns over the varying rates of tests of different private laboratories and also noted the lack of any regulatory oversight in this regard.

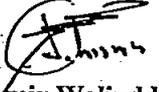
5. Dr. Quaid Saeed explained that several factors contribute to these disparities which include employing technology i.e. installation of latest machines, specialized services, qualified and experienced staff etc. He informed that this information is available on the websites of the concerned laboratories. He clarified that the Act of IHRA as well as Rules and Regulations thereunder, do not allow them to regulate or control the prices of lab tests. He further informed the Committee that they controlled the prices in only a couple of instances i.e. fixing upper limit of price of the COVID test and determining the limit for Dengue test which is still being implemented.

6. The Committee observed that IHRA can only regulate the quality of tests, whereas, it cannot determine the prices of the same. The Chairman Committee suggested that while IHRA cannot control prices, it should ensure quality standards of the lab tests and take action against non-compliant laboratories.

7. The Committee, while disposing of the matter, recommended that the Government should, on priority basis, enhance the medical facilities especially the lab tests in the public sector hospitals. Moreover, the IHRA should look into the difference of prices of basic medical tests and the price lists should be displayed in every private laboratory/hospital as well as placed on the respective websites. The IHRA should also constantly visit the labs/hospitals with regard to maintaining the quality of lab tests.

8. Afterwards, the Committee disposed of the matter with consent of the mover.


(Naeem Akhtar Bhatti)
Secretary Committee


(Senator Amir Waliuddin Chishti)
Chairman