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## Case study: We successfully prosecute doctor for carrying out circumcisions without registration

**Dr Hassan Abdulla, a doctor based in Leicester, has been fined £2,700 and ordered to pay over £30,000 in court costs after he admitted to performing circumcisions without being registered with us).**

Dr Abdulla, who worked at the Al-Khalil Clinic in Conway Road, Leicester, pleaded guilty to carrying out these operations on young boys without registration between October 2011 and January 2012.

### Following the hearing...

Fiona Allinson, compliance manager for the CQC, said: "This sends a clear message to any health care professionals that they not only need to ensure they are registered with CQC but we will take action against those who fail to do so".

We were first alerted to the fact Dr Abdulla was providing the service without registration through information from the University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust and the local community. "We would like to thank all these people for their help in bringing this case", Fiona continued, "by not being registered, providers of care put people at risk as it is not possible for CQC to assess the quality of service being offered."

We wrote to Dr Abdulla when his application had previously been refused, and spoke to him by telephone.

He entered a guilty plea to six counts of carrying out operations on children on the basis that he should have known he could not provide the service without being registered with CQC, but claimed that he was unaware his initial application had been rejected.

### It is an offence to carry our regulated services without being registered with us...

Services are required to be registered with us so they can be subject to regulation and that people know whether these are meeting national standards of quality and safety. Dr Abdulla continued to carry out circumcisions on children after we rejected his application to be registered.

### We carried out two inspections and what we found did not meet the national standards...

The service was provided in the upstairs part of a terraced house. The clinic contained three rooms: a waiting room, clinic room and an office as well as a family bathroom.

The clinic room contained an examination couch on which a baby's changing mat had been placed. Kitchen cabinets were installed on one side of this room on top of which was sterilised equipment and the sterilisers.

### What our inspectors found...

When inspectors viewed the room it was noted that some of the sterilised equipment was in fact out of date.

Whilst the clinic had not commenced for that day the inspectors found a syringe of what appeared to be olive oil in a container which was covered in blood. This had been seen on the initial visit the week before, and did not appear to have been changed since that time.

The wall opposite the examination couch was splattered in blood which was dried onto the wall.

Infection control practices were inadequate, equipment being used was out of date and staff were not appropriately trained.

### Five of the children suffered complications and required further medical treatment...

Whilst four of the children were able to be treated without further surgery, sadly one boy did have to be returned to the operating theatre for remedial surgery to be undertaken.

Due to the level of circumcisions for religious reason being undertaken and not recorded, it is difficult to know what the overall complication rate is. However, for circumcisions provided in an NHS hospital the rate is very low.

Our specialists concluded that the complication rate as experienced by Dr Abdulla's patients was higher than would normally be expected.

## We will take action against those who fail to register...

Dr Nick Bishop, CQC National Professional Advisor, said: "CQC exists as a regulator in order to ensure people receive safe care. This doctor was prosecuted because he had failed to register with CQC to carry out the surgical procedure of circumcision."

"When Dr Abdulla was visited by CQC inspectors they found issues with infection control, out of date equipment, and staff training. This prosecution sends a clear message that we will take action against those who fail to register with CQC when legally required to do so."

Dr Abdulla He was fined £450 for each of the charges and ordered to pay £30,099.80 in court costs.