

7 October 2024

Revised Guidelines on Issue of Medical Visa to Somali Nationals

1. On closure of the Indian Mission in Somalia, the High Commission of India, Nairobi and the Embassy of India, Addis Ababa has been asked to provide Medical and Student Visa to Somali nationals. The Medical Visa is issued to the foreign nationals whose sole purpose is to seek medical treatment in India. The attendants are given Medical Attendant Visa for the sole purpose of assisting the patient. Given the nature of visa, the patients and medical attendants are supposed to travel together and stay together.
2. However, it has come to notice that the medical visa is being misused by the patients and attendants. Therefore, in order to restrict the misuse and continue to facilitate the Medical Visa to deserving patients, the following procedure is put in place with immediate effect:

For the Hospitals in India

- (i) Each Medical Invitation Letter should be issued on the letter head of the hospital which should include a unique reference number, ink-signed, stamped and dated by the issuing Authority; has brief description of disease and treatment plan; and an estimated cost of treatment including consultation and diagnostics. In case of follow-up treatment, the same should also be mentioned;
- (ii) The Medical Invitation Letter should include the bank details of the hospital with request to the patient to make a token payment of approximately 25 per cent of the estimated cost of treatment. Once the payment is received, the hospital should intimate the patient as well as Embassy in this regard. This process would encourage only genuine patients to apply for Medical Visa;

- (iii) Once the above mentioned process is verified, the Embassy would examine the application and decide on the visa;
- (iv) In order to be fair and transparent, the hospital should create a refund policy for cases where the patients, for reasons beyond their control, could not travel to obtain the medical services; or visa has been declined;
- (v) Each Medical Invitation Letter and confirmation of receipt of payment by the patient (Somali) along with documentary proof should be separately sent to the Embassy of India, Addis Ababa (Ethiopia) by email and a copy should be sent to the applicant concerned.

For the Medical Visa Applicants of Somali Nationality

3. Somali Medical Visa Applicants are expected to do the following:
 - (i) Complete the online visa application form; provide accurate personal details as sought in the visa application form and submit it online. Thereafter, take print-out and affix passport size photograph and sign the application form;
 - (ii) Provide documents (Non-Criminal Record Certificate issued by CID; Bank Statement with value sufficient to cover medical and overhead expenses; Referral Letter from the local hospital; Medical Invitation Letter with details as mentioned at 2.(i)(ii); proof of advance payment to the hospital; Original Passports];
 - (iii) Payment of US\$ 83 per application;
4. Embassy would conduct interview of patient and/or attendant and may ask for additional documents from applicants and/or hospitals; the applicants/hospitals are expected to cooperate;
5. Applicants may plan for their visit once the visa is issued.
