UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA

NEGLIGENCE IN MEDICAL TOURISM : REFORMING THE LAW

KHADIJAH WAHAB 2013719507

.

Dissertation submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Enforcement Law

Faculty of Law

June 2015

AUTHOR'S DECLARATION

"I declare that the work in this dissertation was carried out in accordance with the regulation of the Universiti Teknologi MARA. It is original and is the results of my own work, unless otherwise indicated or acknowledged as referenced work. This topic has not been submitted to any other academic institutions or non-academic institutions for any other degree of qualification".

In the event that my dissertation be found to violate the conditions mentioned-above, I voluntarily waive the right of conferment of my degree and agree to be subjected to the disciplinary rules and regulations of the Universiti Teknologi MARA.

Name of candidate	: Khadijah binti Wahab
Candidate ID No.	: 2013719507
Programme	: Master of Enforcement Law
Faculty	: Faculty of Law
Thesis title	: Negligence in Medical Tourism : Reforming The Law

Signature of candidate

Date

June 2015

:

:

ABSTRACT

Medical tourism has been on the rise with the number of medical tourists increasing globally. Malaysia has a great potential of becoming the hubs of medical tourism industry. The potential issues will arise on medical negligence. In law, medical tourists have to adhere the legal system in Malaysia. In case of claims made by medical tourist, the claims must be established according to Malaysia medical standards of practice and medical negligence laws in Malaysia. The Private Healthcare Facilities and Services Act (Act 586) 1998 and its Regulations 2006, Medical Act 1971 and guidelines of Malaysia Medical Council do not provide sufficient procedures in regard to handling medical negligence case. This research may also made referral on New Zealand and Belgium in respect on handling compensation for the medical negligence cases. The structural interviews were carried out to find out the current methods on handling medical negligence that have been implemented by selected private hospitals in Malacca

Based on the research, it will benefit especially the Ministry of Health, the Malaysian Medical Council and medical practitioners in handling medical negligence with specific provision for foreign medical tourist stipulate under the Private Healthcare Facilities and Services Act 1998.

Finally, the research recommendation on the reforming a current laws in Malaysia in regards of medical negligence as an initiative to develop medical tourism performance in Malaysia.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

		Pages
AUTH	OR'S DECLARATION	ii
ABSTE	RACT	iii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT		iv
TABLE	C OF CONTENTS	v
LIST C	DF CASES	ix
LIST C	PFABBREVIATION	x
LIST C	DF STATUTES	xi
CHAP	FER ONE : INTRODUCTION TO THE RESEARCH	
1.0	INTRODUCTION	1
1.1	Background of the Research	2
1.2	Problem Statement	12
1.3	Objectives of the Research	14
1.4	Methodology of the Research	14
1.5	Scope and Limitation of the Research	16
1.6	Significance of the Research	16
1.7	Chapter Outline	17
1.8	Conclusion	18
СНАР	FER TWO : MEDICAL TOURISM IN MALAYSIA	
2.1	INTRODUCTION	19
2.2	TRANSFORMATION IN HEALTHCARE SECTOR IN	24
	MALAYSIA	
	2.2.1 Corporatization in the Malaysia Healthcare System	28
	2.2.2 State Strategy	29
	2.2.3 Economic Development	30
2.3	SCOPES OF MEDICAL TOURISM	34

2.4	ISSUES RAISED IN RESPECT TO MEDICAL	35
	TOURISM	
	2.4.1 Emergence of Web-Based Health Information	35
	2.4.1.1 Portals	36
	2.4.1.2 Media	38
	2.4.2 Medical Negligence	40
	2.4.3 Discriminating between Foreign and Local Patients	45
	2.4.4 Medical Insurance	46
2.5	CONCLUSION	50
CHAP	FER THREE : LEGAL FRAME WORK OF MEDICAL	
TOUR	ISM IN MALAYSIA	
3.1	INTRODUCTION	52
3.2	CONCEPT OF MEDICAL NEGLIGENCE	53
3.3	THE CONCEPT OF DUTY OF CARE AMONG	57
	PRIVATE HEALTHCARE	
3.4	THE COMMON LAW OF MEDICAL NEGLIGENCE	59
3.5	PRIVATE HEALTHCARE PROVIDER AND THE	65
	LEGAL FRAME WORK	
	3.5.1. Procedural Issues in Medical Negligence Claims	66
	3.5.1.2 Limitation Period	67
	3.5.1.3 Costly nature of pursuing claims with lengthy	68
	period	
	3.5.1.4 Issues of confidentiality of health records	69
	3.5.1.5 Expert medical witness	72

3.5.1.6 Accountability of medical practitioners733.5.2 Accountability Under the Medical Regulatory743.5.2.1 The Ministry of Health (MOH)753.5.2.2 The Malaysian Medical Council (MMC)763.5.2.3 The Malaysian Medical Association (MMA)77