



## New Medical Liability and Patient Safety Law

By Mostafa El Zeky and Malak Sobhy

[Mostafa.ELZeky@shalakany.com](mailto:Mostafa.ELZeky@shalakany.com)

### Introduction

On April 28, 2025, the Egyptian Legislator issued the Medical Liability and Patient Safety Law No.13 for 2025 (the “**Law**”) establishing a regulatory framework for professional accountability in the healthcare sector and strengthening patient protection, which was published in the Official Gazette on April 28, 2025, and shall come into effect 6 months following its publication.

We shall delve into the key highlights of the Law as follows:

### Scope of Application

The Law applies to a broad range of licensed healthcare professionals, including physicians, dentists, pharmacists, nurses, physiotherapists, laboratory and radiology technicians, ambulance staff, and other allied health personnel. It governs all forms of medical service delivery, both public and private, covering preventive, diagnostic, therapeutic, or rehabilitative care.

### Obligations, Errors and Patient Rights Codified

#### Defining a Medical Error

The Law defines a “medical error” as any act or omission by a licensed healthcare professional that deviates from established scientific standards, professional ethics, or legal obligations in a manner that causes harm. The Law distinguishes between general medical errors and gross medical errors, the latter encompassing acts of serious misconduct such as practicing under the influence or operating outside one’s licensed specialty. Additionally, the Law establishes that providers are jointly liable with their institutions for resulting harm, and pre-emptive waivers of liability are rendered void. However, as a safeguard for healthcare professionals, liability is excluded when harm arises from complications, patient non-compliance or the use of a medically accepted method, even if not commonly adopted in the same discipline.

#### Obligations on Practitioners and Patient Rights

Under the Law, healthcare providers shall adhere to stringent professional standards, including obtaining informed consent except in emergencies, documenting all treatments and using approved medical tools. Patients have the right to be fully informed regarding their condition and treatment risks, while maintaining the right to refuse treatment or leave a facility, subject to specific conditions.

### The Supreme Medical Liability Committee (the “**Committee**”)

The Law also establishes the Committee as the central authority responsible for adjudicating allegations of medical error and professional misconduct. The Committee



operates under the direct supervision of the Prime Minister and is composed of medical experts, governmental representatives and legal advisors. The Committee's primary mandate is the investigation of complaints and the provision of technical expertise in cases related to medical liability.

### Mandatory Insurance Coverage for Medical Professionals and Penal Consequences

Under the Law, healthcare providers, both individuals and institutions, shall be required to procure insurance that covers patient compensation in the event of a proven medical error. The coverage is administered through a government established insurance fund, which may operate directly or through licensed insurers approved by the Financial Regulatory Authority.

In addition to that, the Law imposes escalating penalties for practitioners' violations, including fines and imprisonment. A general medical error causing harm may result in fines up to EGP 100,000 while a gross error can lead to one to five years imprisonment and fines up to EGP two million. However, penalties only apply upon proof of fault, and practitioners are shielded from liability in cases involving complications or patient noncompliance. Additionally, the Law introduces penalties for filing malicious or unfounded complaints against practitioners aiming to protect the latter and to deter bad-faith accusations. The Law also allows for settlements, to avoid or halt punishment if the patient or their heirs agree to reconcile.

### Market Reaction

The promulgation of the Law has sparked a [spectrum of reactions](#) within the healthcare sector. While the Law aims to protect patients, many healthcare professionals have voiced concern. The [Medical Community](#) warns that such legislation may lead to physicians leaving the profession and resorting to defensive medicine, thereby having a rather negative impact on patient care quality. In contrast, the Egyptian government views the Law as a progressive step balancing the rights of patients and healthcare providers. The Medical Community continues to advocate for clearer distinctions between unavoidable complications and negligence to ensure fair accountability. As the Law begins to take effect, the focus is shifting toward practical safeguards that uphold patient rights without compromising clinical judgement.