

## **SMS Alert to Speed Up Medical Test Process**

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DUBAI - From next month, an SMS alert will take some of the pain out of the compulsory medical test process. And the new electronic procedure informing applicants that their fitness report is ready will eliminate the risk of malpractice.

The medical test results for expatriates taking up employment or residency in the emirate will be sent electronically to the Dubai Naturalization and Residency Department (DNRD) for further processing.

An SMS, quoting a reference number, will inform the applicant of the status and ask them to go to the next step.

The current procedure requires an applicant to collect a hardcopy of the test results from the centre where the test was done and to submit it to the DNRD in person.

A Department of Health and Medical Services official said the SMS will help save time and money. "The applicant will no longer be required to visit the centre to pick up his test results or wait for them to be couriered to him," said Maisa Al Bustani, Director Medical Fitness at the department.

According to the existing rules, all expatriates have to undergo compulsory medical tests for infectious diseases to ensure that they are fit for employment/residency in the emirate.

The procedure will also tighten the verification process and erase the chance of malpractice. Recently, Dubai Police arrested two cleaners at a medical centre who helped patients with infectious diseases get fitness reports by changing the applicants' photos.

"Though such cases are far and few, the electronic link will ensure that such malpractice is ruled out," said Al Bustani.

(Khaleej Times)