
Woman and male doctors

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of Allaah, the Most Merciful, the Bestower of Mercy

Question: What is the opinion of Your Eminence on Muslim females being treated by male doctors, an issue which is frequently raised and may be embarrassing to Muslims? What is your advice to Muslim sisters and their guardians?

Shaykh Abdul-Azeez ibn Baaz (رَحِمَهُ اللهُ)¹: It is undoubtedly true that the issue of female patient and male doctor is very important and annoying. However, when Allaah grants a woman piety and deep insight, she takes precautions and pays attention to this matter. It is not permissible for a female patient or a male doctor to be alone together. Orders and instructions have been issued by those in authority to prevent the occurrence of such a situation. A woman must avoid this and seek skilled female doctors. As long as female doctors are available, there is no need to resort to male doctors.

When resorting to male doctors is necessary because of the lack of female doctors, there is nothing wrong with doing so. This becomes permissible under necessity. However, the examination must not be done in Khulwah (being alone with a member of the opposite sex), but in the presence of a Mahram (spouse or permanently unmarriageable relative) when the illness is in the head, hand, leg, etc. If the physical examination has to be on `Awrah (parts of the body that must be covered in public), her husband or another woman must be present, this is better and safer, or in the presence of one or two nurses. If there is a woman with the nurse, it will be better and safer to eliminate any suspicion, but Khulwah is not permissible.

¹ (رَحِمَهُ اللهُ) (rahimahullaah) May Allaah have mercy on him