

Press Release

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AMERICAN MUSLIM DOCTORS DEFEND UK HYGIENE REGULATIONS

Chicago, IL, 3/5/08: Muslim physicians from the Islamic Medical Association of North America (IMANA) were dismayed to read about the recent outcry of Muslim medical practitioners in the United Kingdom after new hygiene regulations had been enacted.

Dr. Ashraf Sufi, President of IMANA stated: “As Muslims and as physicians, we fully agree with the stringent rules, including cleansing the arms of physicians in preparation for surgery, as mandated by the medical establishment, in practicing medicine. These rules are time tested, and are necessary for the protection of patients and health care providers alike. The washing of the arms by physicians and nurses prior to surgery prevent the spread of diseases and promote health – some of the most basic elements of Islam. It is our strong conviction that the practice of medicine in the United States of America and the United Kingdom does not contradict the teachings of Islam.

“Under no circumstance do we believe that regulations in the west should be circumvented, and we disagree with the idea that religion prevents doctors and nurses from performing their duties according to mandated regulations and guidelines. All medical students, doctors, nurses and other health care providers, including Muslims must abide by these regulations.”

The Islamic Medical Association Medical of North America is independent of and is not affiliated with the Islamic Medical Association in the United Kingdom. The Islamic Medical Association of North America was founded in 1967 as an association of doctors and healthcare professionals that was formed to provide a forum to promote the ideals of Islamic medical ethics and values among Muslims and the community-at-large.

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