

**Anwar can't be treated overseas, it's the law, say authorities**  
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Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim cannot receive medical treatment abroad as the law does not allow inmates to do so, says the Prisons Department.

Supri Hashim, the department's deputy director in charge of prison policy, told Utusan Malaysia that Section 37 (1) of the Prisons Act 1995 clearly stated that a prisoner could only be treated in government hospitals, and not private hospitals, let alone overseas.

"In this matter, when a prisoner has a serious ailment and the prison authorities do not have the facilities to treat him, senior prison officials can send him to a government hospital with a recommendation by a medical officer.

"This has been standard procedure for all prisoners," Supri said in a statement reported by Utusan.

There are some 47,000 prisoners in Malaysian prisons.

Supri was responding to claims by the former opposition leader's family that Putrajaya was not providing adequate medical treatment to the de facto PKR leader, and was preventing him from going abroad for surgery.

Anwar has irregular blood pressure, a growth in the kidney, gastritis, arthritis and a shoulder muscle tear.

He has been in prison since February to serve a five-year sentence for sodomy, a charge which he and the opposition say is aimed at ending his political career.

His family has said they no longer trust the treatment given to him in Malaysia, saying Anwar was also denied physiotherapy. – November 10, 2015.

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