

Appendix 6

Investigative phone recording from Director Wang, Coordinator for kidney transplant operations at Yantai Yuhuangding Hospital, Shandong Province

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Key points:

It is guaranteed to operate on the patient within two weeks; the kidney donor is guaranteed to be under 30 years old; “you get what you pay for”; the cost is about 500,000 yuan, from which the hospital gets 100,000 yuan, and “we get 400,000 yuan”.

1. To wait for the kidney source and for the operation, “including the physical examination, it will be within half a month, within two weeks.” “Even for half a month, or even two weeks, the estimates are on the long side.”
2. “Do you want the complete package? The whole thing will cost over 500,000 yuan.”
3. “We ask for 400,000 yuan, and [you] give the hospital [another] 100,000 yuan.”
4. [Question: “Can you still find that kind [of donors] from the prisons?”] Answer: “You need to find the ones under 30 years old. You get what you pay for, understand?”
5. [Question: “What if they drag on and delay it for two months, or three months, or even longer, what should we do then?”] Answer: “Ah, no, it is impossible. Impossible, impossible.”
6. “We just performed a surgery for a 64-year-old patient, who has already been discharged from the hospital.”

Phone Investigation Recording:

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Director Wang: Hello?

Investigator: Hello there, how are you? I want to ask you...Can you tell me if your place could help me contact Yuhuangding Hospital for kidney transplant?

Director Wang: Yes.

Investigator: Alright then. Could you tell me...hmm, I know a patient, who was referred there by you. That is, that patient told me...then how much you charge for the patient...

Director Wang: Where are you from? Suzhou?

Investigator: No, from Anhui.

Director Wang: From Anhui?

Investigator: Yeah.

Director Wang: Oh, kidney source fees? What type? What blood type?

Investigator: Oh, Type A.

Director Wang: Who gave you my phone number? How did you get to know my phone number?

Investigator: It's Yu...from Yuhuangding, their internal medicine department got me your number, from the renal internal medicine department. But he told me that it's better to go through you. He said [I] shouldn't go through him, because they are different from the surgical department. Anyway, between the two departments, there may be some internal issues between them...

Director Wang: Oh, no problem, just tell me who. No problem, you can just tell me who it was.

Investigator: Alas, I, since that may involve some of their colleagues, so he told me not to tell who told him. He just told me that you are the one to contact. Anyway, he wanted to find out if you can...

Director Wang: Oh...

Investigator: yeah, yeah, yeah.

Director Wang: Yes, we can, yes, we can do it.

Investigator: So through your contact, if the blood type is A, then to wait for the kidney source and for the operation, how long will it take? Could you give me an estimate?

Director Wang: Within half a month.

Investigator: Half a month?

Director Wang: Yes, including the physical examination, it will be within half a month, within two weeks.

Investigator: Within only two weeks, are you sure it could be done?

Director Wang: It's guaranteed that we can do it.

Investigator: Oh, so you will contact Director Liu directly? Or through some other doctors in his department?

Director Wang: Oh, regarding this question, it will be done directly with the director. We, eh, the director is like an elder brother to me.

Investigator: Oh, Director Liu is a very good friend of yours?

Director Wang: You bet, others cannot commit.

Investigator: Oh, no wonder that doctor didn't want to promise anything. You, anyway, perhaps everyone in the hospital has some kind of interest in it. He said that you should have a way to do it, anyway.

Director Wang: That's right.

Investigator: He also told me so.

Director Wang: Yes, yes.

Investigator: Yeah.

Director Wang: The doctors don't know much. They just cannot pull it off!

Investigator: Yeah, right. He said that for the ordinary doctors, even if you find them, they cannot do anything, so you can...

Director Wang: Yes.

Investigator: Ah, then what would you say... regarding the cost for the whole thing, how do you charge it?

Director Wang: Hmm...Do you want a large package?

Investigator: Yeah, whatever you say will work. He has this illness, anyway. The patient, anyway, has already spent a lot of money. Will he argue with a much smaller sum? That is the patient's mentality.

Director Wang: Hmm...if you want the whole package...

Investigator: Yeah.

Director Wang: The complete package is, the whole thing, will cost over 500,000 yuan.

Investigator: 500,000 yuan?

Director Wang: Yes, yes.

Investigator: So, if by that time we come straight to Yuhuangding to see you. Say if the patient brings [the money] with him...how will you handle the payment? Say that you definitely want them to pay you. How would you receive the initial payment or something? How should they pay you?

Director Wang: Hmm...how to pay me?

Investigator: No, I meant that when a patient comes to the hospital. Eventually he will require hospitalization and so forth. So the payment due to the hospital for sure will be paid to the hospital, that's for sure, right? You know what I meant?

Director Wang: Yes, yes.

Investigator: Yeah.

Director Wang: Yes, yes, yes.

Investigator: So why don't you give me a figure, as how you would divide it into your portion and the hospital's portion. The hospital's portion will be separate from your portion. Like you told me, you just told me two, two weeks, right?

Director Wang: Yes, that is right.

Investigator: So how much is your portion?

Director Wang: 400,000 yuan.

Investigator: Oh, then, you meant that the hospital side will charge about 200,000 yuan for hospitalization, etc.?

Director Wang: 100,000 yuan.

Investigator: This amount goes to the hospital?

Director Wang: Right.

Investigator: Oh, so as far as the hospital side is concerned... Since I heard that Xiangya [Hospital] is similar, and you need to give a portion to the hospital, then you can find the doctors to do it, and doctors will go to get it for you. Anyway, they will get it for you, so a portion of the payment will go to the doctors, who do the liaison for you. So you pretty much can give me a figure, and you said it was 500,000 yuan, right? And you said that for a kidney transplant, this is an acceptable amount. So, 100,000 yuan is for the hospital portion. Basically, you are pretty sure that there won't be any large discrepancies?

Director Wang: No.

Investigator: Oh, no large discrepancies?

Director Wang: It is about this figure, yes, yes.

Investigator: Oh, oh, okay, so that was one question. Anyway, if we are going to see each other, where do you plan to meet? Yuhuangding [Hospital] or somewhere else?

Director Wang: Either way.

Investigator: OK, then I have another question for you. As far as payment is concerned, we are fine with the overall figures. This is a small problem. And for the amount of time it will take, you pretty much told me already, two weeks. Then as for the 500,000 yuan, how would you prefer to be paid? Obviously, [the patient] cannot pay it in full before the operation, right?

Director Wang: You pay half of it before the operation.

Investigator: Hmm, what happens if, say like you told me, it's about two weeks, then we are OK with that. But what if they drag on and delay it for two months, or three months, or even longer, what should we do then?

Director Wang: Ah, no, it is impossible. Impossible, impossible.

Investigator: So in other words, you are certain that the second half will be paid after you fulfill your promise, right?

Director Wang: Yes, you can rest assured! OK, even for half a month, or even two weeks, the estimates are on the long side.

Investigator: Oh, he didn't mention to me that you and Director Liu are good buddies. He didn't tell me this.

Director Wang: Ah, I am also a director.

Investigator: You are also a director, right?

Director Wang: I am a director of operations.

Investigator: Oh, no, you meant that you manage the operations, so you don't work on the operation tables?

Director Wang: I don't perform operations.

Investigator: So you don't do operations, and you are only managing that...

Director Wang: Operations are done by the professor, well, Professor Liu.

Investigator: I understand, I understand, so if you are on the operations side, I want to ask you this question: the source of the kidney. I asked my friends working in medicine, and they are pretty sure that kidneys from young donors are, relatively speaking, good. So can you still...still find...?

Director Wang: Of course.

Investigator: Right, so can you still find that kind [of donors] from the prisons?

Director Wang: You need to find the ones under 30 years old.

Investigator: Under 30 years old?

Director Wang: Yes.

Investigator: So when can you provide the kidney? The ones from under 30-year-old donors?

Director Wang: Well, you will know when you come. We are not going to eat our words, you get what you pay for, understand?

Investigator: Oh, oh, oh, yeah, he gave me an overview, and told me that you are the one to get things done. But I still want to hear it from your own mouth. I want to hear it from you personally. Yes, just give me a reply. So I've obtained some information from him, and then [I wanted to] verify with you. So I can feel comfortable in my heart. Anyway, it is you, just like what you said, oh, yes, to me, it is an assurance.

Director Wang: Rest assured. We guarantee to find a young donor for you. I kept on asking, who is the patient? Who is the patient? You haven't told me yet.

Investigator: My elder brother, well, just right.

Director Wang: Who?

Investigator: My elder brother.

Director Wang: Who is he? Oh, how old?

Investigator: He is 50 years old.

Director Wang: Oh, oh, not too old.

Investigator: Right, he isn't that old. If you say you would find a donor similar to him in age, in his 50s, or even older, then I would feel difficult to accept it.

Director Wang: Hey, we just performed a surgery for a 64-year-old patient. Very good, from Tianjin...64 years old, and already discharged from the hospital.

Investigator: What? You meant the patient was 64 years old?

Director Wang: Yes, I did it for this patient.

Investigator: Oh, the key is that the kidney is sourced from a donor, who is not older than 35, like you just said, right?

Director Wang: No, no, no, right, right, right.

Director Wang: Oh, didn't I already tell you, just 400,000 yuan. And you pay the hospital directly, OK?

Investigator: I got it, just like you said, you take 400,000 yuan, and the hospital takes 100,000 yuan. There won't be large discrepancies, right?

Director Wang: Yes, well, do you want the whole package? 500,000 yuan, OK?

Investigator: I got it.

Director Wang: The complete package is 500,000 yuan. Yes, Yes.

Investigator: The complete package is 500,000 yuan. And you said that it would take about two weeks, within two weeks, right?

Director Wang: Yes, yes, right.

Investigator: Ok, I got the information. Very well then, I will contact you on your cellphone in time.

Director Wang: Great, just a send message to me, OK?

Investigator: What did you say, send you a message? Ok.

Director Wang: Right, right, right, you send me a message. So that I can contact you just in case. I will call you, OK?