

# **Investment in Medical Tourism Industry In MENA Region**

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The main objective of this paper is to overview the current situation of medical tourism in the MENA region, and the main reason behind this paper is the significance and contribution of medical tourism to the national and international economy.

Health care policy based on national and international policies depends on promotion of investment in all fields including the health field through:

1. Simplification of procedures.
2. Providing facilities for investors:
  - a. Information
  - b. Technical support.
4. Competition of prices.
5. Availability of high quality health institutions.

## **Revenues from Medical Tourism**

- In Jordan, its vary yearly from 450 million JD to 500 JD million of year 2000 to year 2007 according to Official industry figures.

Most of them:

- Yemenis 30%
- Libyans 20 – 25%
- Sudanese 20%

And other nationalities from Algeria, Tunisia, Iraq Palestine. KSA and Arabian GCC Countries

## **Medical Tourism Investment in Health Care**

- The MENA region contains many countries with varying degrees of development, wealth and demographics.
- The gulf countries (GCC) witnessed economic prosperity and technological development as a result of oil production.
- Other countries faced wars, foreign invasion and political instability.
- This development resulted in infrastructure in various sectors including health care sector.
- Some countries are health services consumers and others are health care providers.

## Hospital Beds for MENA Region Countries

Hospital beds 10,000 pop		Hospital beds 10,000 pop	
Libya	37	Tunisia	18
Lebanon	36	Algeria	17
Qatar	24	Syria	15
Saudi Arabia	23	Palestine	13
Egypt	22	Iraq	13
UAE	20	Morocco	9
Kuwait	19	Sudan	7
Jordan	19	Yemen	7

## Health Care Indicators for MENA Region Countries

Life expectancy at birth (males)		Life expectancy at birth at	
UAE	77	Syria	72
Kuwait	77	Egypt	70
Qatar	77	Jordan	71
Bahrain	74	Algeria	70
Oman	73	Lebanon	70
Saudi Arabia	72	Yemen	59
Palestine	71	Sudan	59
Libya	70	Iraq	48
Tunisia	70		
Morocco	70		

## Health care indicators for MENA regions

Infant mortality per 10,000 Live birth		Infant mortality per 10,000 life birth	
UAE	6	Palestine	21
Kuwait	7	Egypt	22
Qatar	8	Lebanon	26
Bahrain	9	Algeria	29
Oman	9	Morocco	36
Syria	13	Sudan	60
Jordan	17	Yemen	71
Libya	17	Iraq	98
Tunisia	19		
S.arabia	19		

## Health expenditure as percentage of GDP

S.ARABIA	3.4
Bahrain	3.4
Oman	2.7
Qatar	2.6
UAE	2.3
Kuwait	1.9
Yemen	5.2

## Health expenditure per capita

Lebanon	757	Libya	235
Syria	62	Tunisia	180
Iraq	61	Algeria	124
Qatar	1720	Morocco	99
UAE	1128		
Kuwait	728		
Bahrain	789		
S.arabia	548		
Oman	392		
Yemen	50		

Jordan	243	Sudan	39
Palestine	138	Egypt	90
Lebanon	757	Libya	235
Syria	62	Tunisia	180
Iraq	61	Algeria	124
Qatar	1720	Morocco	99
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## **Medical tourism, traveling for care**

Patients are traveling to obtain medical care around the world considering the following points:

- Health care costs are increasing at an average of ten percent per year
- The safety and quality of care available in many offshore settings is no longer an issue
- Consumers ( patients) are willing to travel to obtain health care that is both safe and less costly
- When quality comparable and savings are high
- Short waiting periods

## **Health Care Market**

- World medical tourism market is estimated to be around \$60 billion currently, it expected to grow to 100\$ by 2015
- Over 750.000 Americans traveled abroad for medical procedures in 2007
- Over 35 countries are serving around a million medical tourists annually
- The MENA region health care market is estimated at \$ 40 billion and growing at average of 16 % annually.

- The health care indicators showed that the potential

Countries in the region and worldwide are sources of medical tourism, while others are health care providers.

## **Gulf Countries (GCC)**

- Nationals prefer to obtain medical care abroad.
- Despite the high expenditure per capita, health care systems lag behind countries with similar GDP such as USA and EU countries. In order to match the health care market and reach international standards, additional investment is needed from both private and public sectors, many projects are being planned.
- Nationals receive free health care while non national pay fraction of the cost.
- The new insurance law in most gulf countries will oblige all employers to provide health care insurance to their employees.

## **Egypt**

- Egypt has relatively well-established health care infrastructure with modern hospitals and clinics spreading throughout the country.
- Egypt is a health care provider in the region
- The country is under the burden of over population.

Some diseases such as viral hepatitis, diabetes and cardiovascular diseases are huge burden on health care resources.

## **Tunisia**

- Tunisia as a health care provider in the region. Approximately 95% of Tunisian population has access to health care facilities.
- In general, the majority of the population in the countries of the region has access to local health services with few exceptions.

## **Jordan**

- Jordan at present is the main referral center in region.
- Jordan is located at the heart of the Middle East; and currently has population of about 5.6 million.
- Jordan is under growing a transformation into international business hub centering the Middle East. Such a transition may be attributed to :
  - Political and macro –economical stability
  - Well directed and skilled work force
  - Good infrastructure: including adequate utilities and transport system
  - Large regional markets
  - Optimum geographical location.

## **Health care in Jordan**

**Jordan** has an advanced health care system. The first kidney transplant was performed in Jordan in 1972, the first heart transplant in 1985, while living – related liver transplants started in 2004 as **Jordan** hospital and the royal medical service.

- It has the most highly qualified consultant physicians in all medical specialties.

- Most have received training in the USA , UK , Europe and Canada
- It has very highly – skilled staff.
- Utilizes up –to-data medical technology and techniques.
- Has a high ratio of doctors (and other medical professionals) to its population size.
- Is considered very cost competitive as it is :
  - One – tenth of US cost
  - One – third of European cost.
  - The speed with which medical procedures are performed.
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## **Main Objectives of Medical Tourism Strategy**

- Sustainability of providing medical health services, maintain its excellence in the future in the region.
- Attract more of the international patient to use advanced medical services in the region.
- Look for other countries in USA, Europe and Africa to treat their patients.

Promote the investment in medical health sector (hospitals, specialized health centers) based on high level standards in order

## **Future Strategy**

- Create awareness through public media embassies outside and international tourism movement to promote Jordan, and or high qualified regional centers as a supplier of high quality of health services.
- Build a strong partnership between health care providers regionally or internationally health sectors based on regional and international policies.
- Cooperate with international concerned organizations.

Establish a regional forum medical tourism

## Major Medical Procedures with average Total coast

PROCEDURE	COUNTRIES					Coast as a %toU.S			
	U.S	India	Thailand	Singapore	Malaysia	India	Thailand	Singapore	Malaysia
Heart Bypass	130.000	10.000	11.000	18.500	9.000	8%	8%	14%	7%
Heart valve replacement	160.000	9.000	10.000	12.500	9.000	6%	6%	8%	6%
Angioplasty	57.000	11.000	13.000	13.000	11.000	23%	19%	23%	19%
Hip replacement	43.000	9.000	12.000	12.000	10.000	28%	21%	28%	23%
Hysterectomy	20.000	3.000	4.500	6.000	3.000	23%	15%	30%	15%
Knee replacement	40.000	8.500	10.000	13.000	8.000	25%	21%	33%	20%
Spinal fusion	62.000	5.500	7.000	9.000	6.000	11%	9%	15%	10%