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The Vitals

Medical Newsletter

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TOPIC 1. PARAMETRIC INSURANCE IN HEALTHCARE

Introduction

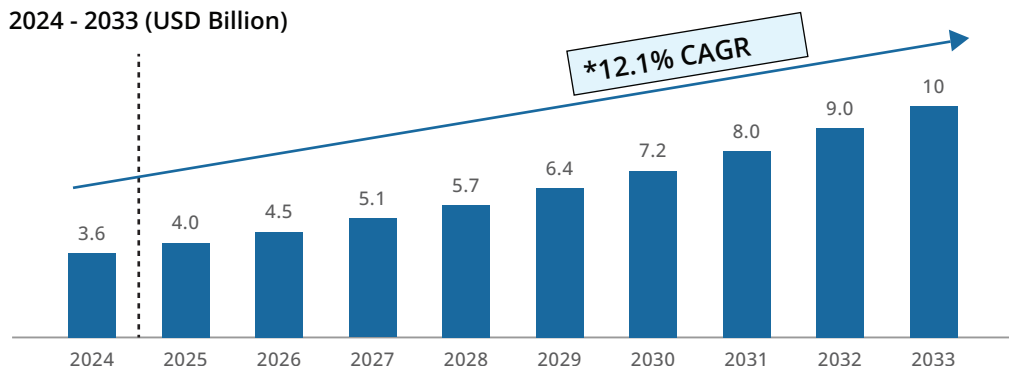
Traditional insurance often fails during pandemics and health crises due to delayed funding. Parametric insurance offers faster payouts based on objective triggers (like infection rates or hospital occupancy), ensuring quicker liquidity and stronger healthcare resilience. ⁽¹⁾

Market Outlook for Healthcare Parametric

The global parametric insurance market is projected to grow from USD 3.6 Billion in 2024 to USD 10 Billion by 2033, at a CAGR of 12.1%.

Healthcare is an emerging segment, with U.S. health emergencies costing over \$500 Billion in 2023 (CDC/Munich Re). ⁽²⁾

Parametric Insurance Market 2024 - 2033 (USD Billion)



* This value is calculated by **BADRI**.

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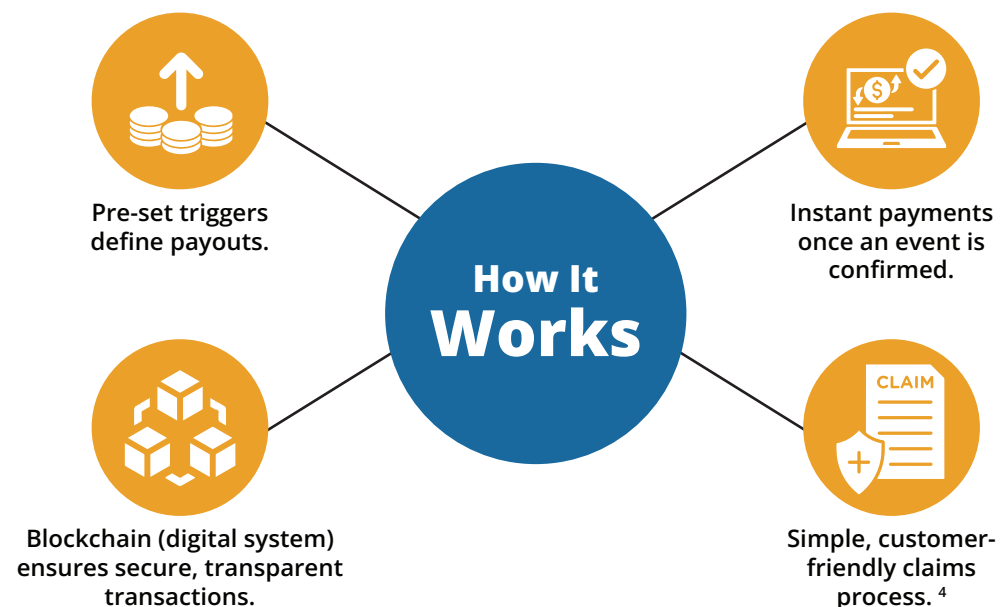
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Why Healthcare Needs Parametric Insurance

Pandemics and disasters often lead to Non-Damage Business Interruption (NDBI) losses, such as cancelled healthcare services, staff shortages, and disruptions in the supply chain. Parametric insurance offers a fast and transparent payout mechanism by using predefined, objective triggers — for example, a World Health Organization (WHO) outbreak declaration or a drop in ICU capacity.

Swiss Re (Hong Kong): Pays hospitals after a Typhoon Signal 8 warning, even before damage. ⁽¹⁾

Africa ARC: Created after Ebola (11,000 deaths, \$2.8B losses), it funds responses once case thresholds are crossed. ⁽³⁾



Real-World Examples of Parametric Health Insurance

FloodFlash – UK:

After the 2015 Boxing Day floods, Tadcaster Medical Centre, the only GP clinic in town, struggled to find affordable flood insurance. With FloodFlash’s smart sensor-based parametric cover, the clinic received a quick payout within days of Storm Franklin (2022), allowing it to resume patient care promptly. ⁽⁵⁾

ARC Outbreak Cover – Africa:

Africa’s fragile health systems make it vulnerable to epidemics like Ebola, Marburg, Lassa fever, and meningitis. After the 2014–2016 Ebola crisis exposed funding delays, the African Risk Capacity (ARC) created a parametric insurance product that triggers quick payouts based on outbreak thresholds. Piloted in 2017 (Guinea, Uganda) and launched in 2022, it offers up to US \$5 million coverage per country, with Senegal receiving the first policy. ⁽³⁾

Swiss Re – Extreme Heat, India:

Micro-parametric cover for 46,000 women workers with payouts triggered by extreme heat, protecting against health risks, income loss, and supporting climate resilience. ⁽⁶⁾

Global (Marsh, Munich Re & Metabiota (health data provider)):

In 2018, they developed a parametric insurance product to cover non-damage business interruption (NDBI) losses from disease outbreaks. Though few bought it before COVID-19, it was an early innovation in epidemic risk coverage. ⁽¹⁾

Benefits and Challenges of Parametric Health Insurance

Category	Point	Details
Benefits	Rapid Liquidity	Payouts within days vs. 6–24 months under indemnity cover ⁽⁷⁾
	Transparency	Clear, objective triggers reduce disputes between insurers and hospitals ⁽⁸⁾
	Operational Continuity	Keeps hospitals running during pandemics, floods, or power outages ⁽⁵⁾
	Scalability	Automation enables pandemic response and high-volume claims ⁽⁴⁾
Challenges	Basis Risk	Payout may not match actual hospital costs if triggers are set too low ⁽⁹⁾
	Awareness Gap	Vulnerable populations remain unaware of risks, slowing adoption ⁽⁶⁾
	Regulatory & Data Issues	Epidemic triggers depend on reliable surveillance (WHO, government data) ⁽¹⁾

Key Takeaways

- Globally, parametric insurance is expanding beyond weather-related risks and is increasingly being applied to strengthen healthcare resilience.
- Enables fast, transparent payouts when systems are under pressure.
- Helps bridge funding gaps during epidemics, disasters, and disruptions.
- Future scope: ICU triggers and epidemic thresholds for quicker response.
- As the world adopts it, the GCC should also adapt this model to strengthen healthcare risk management.

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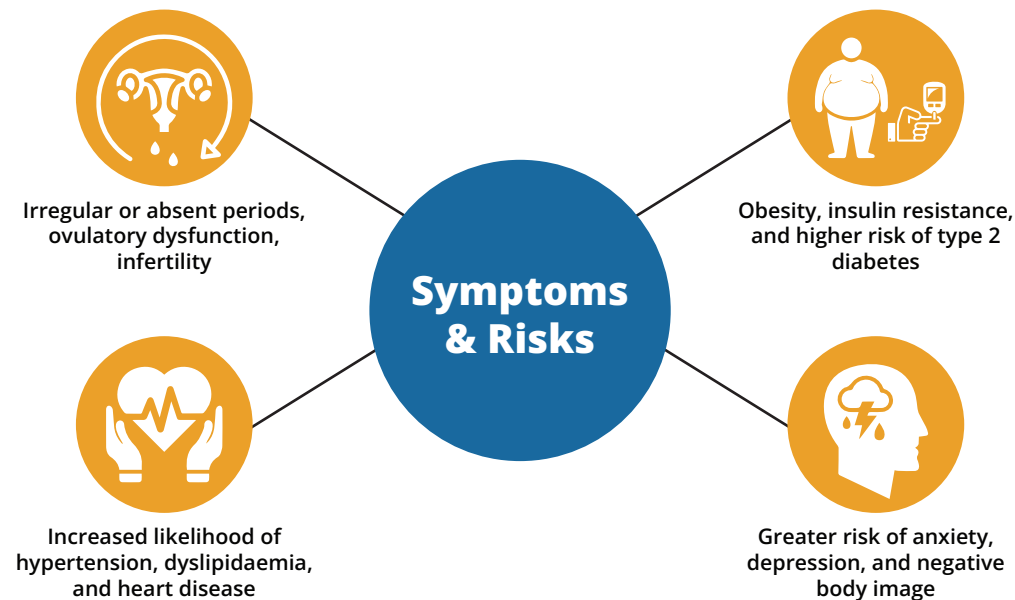
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TOPIC 2. WOMEN'S HEALTH IN THE GCC: PCOS AWARENESS & THE ROLE OF HEALTH INSURANCE

Introduction

PCOS is a common hormonal disorder and the leading cause of an ovulation-related infertility. It affects 6–13% of women worldwide, with up to 70% undiagnosed. In the GCC, about 30% of infertile women have PCOS, especially those with obesity or above 35. ^{(10) (11)}



Key Need: Raising awareness and ensuring insurance coverage are essential to safeguard women's health and reduce long-term healthcare costs. ⁽¹²⁾

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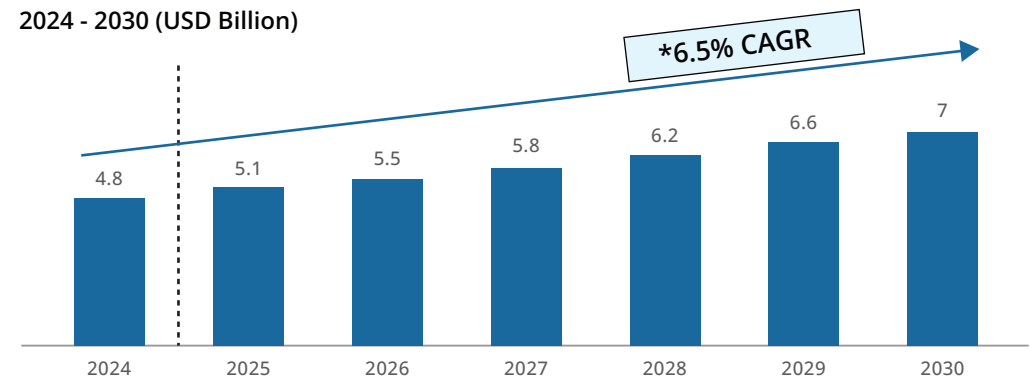
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Global PCOS Treatment Market

The global polycystic ovarian syndrome (PCOS) treatment market was valued at USD 4.8 billion in 2024 and is projected to reach USD 7 billion by 2030, growing at a CAGR of 6.5%. Growth driven by lifestyle factors, obesity, diabetes, and rising awareness.

Global PCOS Treatment Market 2024 - 2030 (USD Billion)



* This value is calculated by BADRI.



Drug Class:

Insulin-sensitizers lead (**36%** share); oral contraceptives fastest-growing.



Surgery:

Laparoscopic ovarian drilling dominates (**68.9%** revenue, 2024).



Distribution:

Hospital pharmacies largest (**65%**).

Regions:

North America

Largest market (**41%** share, United States accounted for **88.5%** of North America's share).

Europe

Supported by research projects.

Asia-Pacific

Fastest-growing region, with high prevalence in India and China.

Latin America & Middle East and Africa

Hospital pharmacies largest (**65%**).



Innovation:

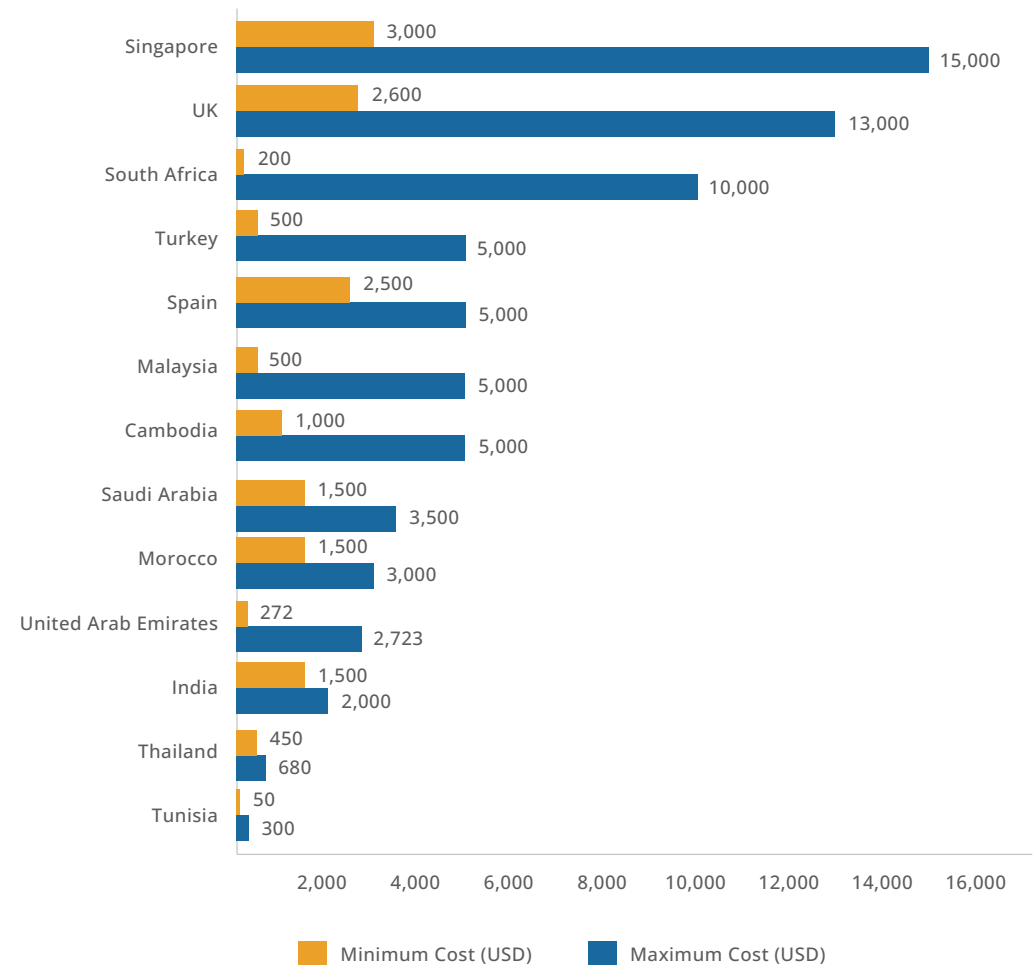
Novel drugs (semaglutide, artemisinin), AI diagnostics, M&A (Organon-Forendo), and collaborations (Evotec- Bayer- Celmatix).⁽¹³⁾



Healthcare & Economic Burden

PCOS drives long-term healthcare costs; early diagnosis and management reduce complications. In the GCC, high prevalence and rising obesity make it a public health priority.^{(11) (14) (15)}

Country Wise Treatment Cost (USD)



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PCOS Insurance Coverage – Country Examples

Country	Insurer / Plan	Covered	Not Covered	Notes
UAE	Daman Health Insurance	- Unmarried: Menstrual irregularities & related investigations - Married (specific plans): PCOD treatment; infertility covered in Premier, Premier Plus, Thiqa, Ayonak, Reaya	- Cosmetic symptoms (hirsutism, acne, obesity-related) - Infertility (unless plan includes it)	Coverage depends on plan; unmarried women covered only for menstrual issues ⁽¹⁶⁾
India	Multiple (Aditya Birla, Bajaj Allianz, Care Health, Digit Health, HDFC ERGO, ICICI Lombard, Manipal Cigna, Niva Bupa)	- Diagnostic tests (blood tests, ultrasounds) - Doctor consultations - Medications (non-surgical) - Hospitalization (IPD) & day-care procedures - Pre- and post- hospitalization expenses	- Infertility / IVF usually not covered - Obesity & weight control treatments excluded - Dietary supplements & experimental treatments excluded	Coverage depends on plan; unmarried women covered only for menstrual issues ⁽¹⁷⁾



Key Takeaways

- PCOS is a global public health issue impacting fertility, metabolic, and mental health.
- In the GCC, 30% of infertile women are affected, with obesity and late maternal age raising risks.
- Insurance gaps leave women with high out-of-pocket costs for tests and treatments.
- Expanding coverage and awareness can improve early diagnosis, prevention, and outcomes while reducing long-term costs.

Insurance & Healthcare Angle

Current Coverage Gaps	Why Coverage Matters
Many plans exclude full PCOS tests (hormones, metabolic screening, ultrasound), causing high out-of-pocket costs. ⁽¹⁸⁾	Early Screening: Coverage of diagnostics ensures timely detection and treatment of PCOS and related conditions. ⁽¹⁹⁾
Fertility treatments like IVF are rarely included; when covered, benefits are limited and inconsistent. ⁽¹⁹⁾	Long-Term Management: Women need ongoing support for daily symptoms, emotional health, and education—not just fertility or weight issues. ⁽²¹⁾
Expat/International plans often tie infertility benefits to maternity coverage, with waiting periods, exclusions, and caps. ⁽²⁰⁾	Preventing Complications: Comprehensive coverage can reduce long-term risks of diabetes, metabolic syndrome, and heart disease, lowering future costs. ⁽¹⁸⁾

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TOPIC 3. MEDICAL TOURISM & HEALTH INSURANCE: GLOBAL TRENDS VS. GCC OUTLOOK

Introduction

Medical tourism is growing as patients seek affordable, timely, and high-quality care abroad. Health insurance fuels this trend by covering international treatments and reducing financial risk. In the GCC, especially the UAE, Saudi Arabia, and Qatar, strong infrastructure, accredited hospitals, and government initiatives position the region as a medical tourism hub—creating opportunities for insurers to design attractive cross-border coverage.

Global Medical Tourism Overview

Market Size, CAGR & Projections

The global medical tourism market was valued at USD 31.1 billion in 2024, with expectations to reach USD 87.3 billion by 2030, reflecting a CAGR of 18.8% during 2025–2030. ⁽²²⁾

** This value is calculated by BADRI.*

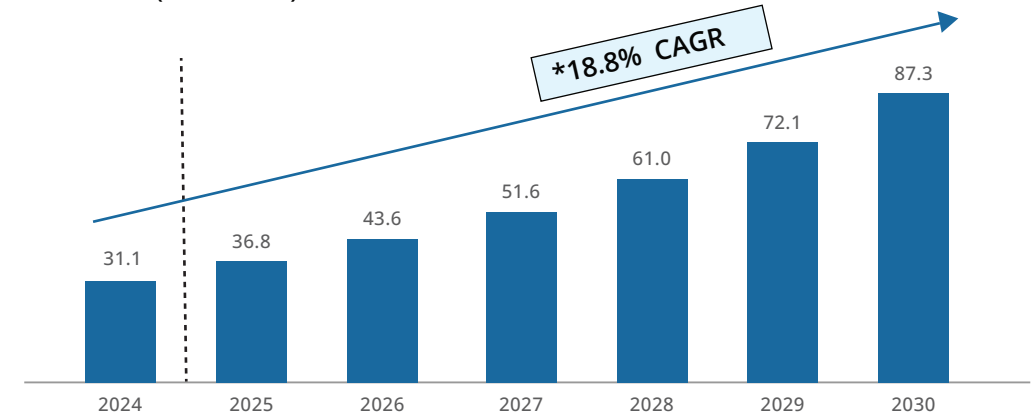
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Global Medical Tourism Market

2024 - 2030 (USD Billion)



Key Market Trends & Insights

- **Regional Leader:** Thailand dominated the medical tourism market in 2024 with a **24.4% share**.
- **By Treatment Type:** Cosmetic treatments held the largest revenue share at **24.1%** in 2024.
- **By Service Provider:** Private providers led the market with a **54.5% share** in 2024. ⁽²³⁾

GCC Medical Tourism Market

Current Market Size & Growth Projections

The GCC medical tourism market was valued at USD 8.7 billion in 2024 and is forecasted to reach USD 22.2 billion by 2033, reflecting a CAGR of 11% between 2025 and 2033. ⁽²³⁾ The UAE, led by Dubai and Abu Dhabi, is becoming a leading medical tourism hub, offering advanced treatments in cosmetic surgery, fertility, cardiology, and orthopedics, combined with world-class facilities and luxury recovery experiences. ⁽²⁴⁾

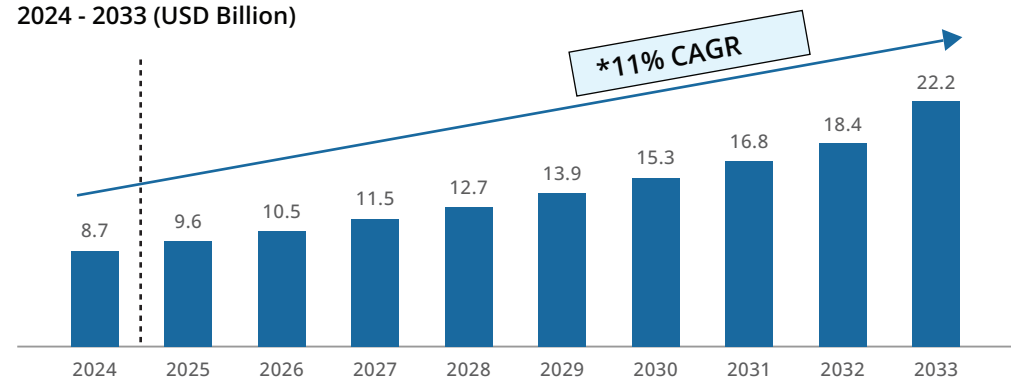
Government Initiatives

- The Department of Health (DoH) in Abu Dhabi has launched Centers of Excellence (CoEs) to strengthen specialized healthcare services.
- July 2025: Approved standards for recognition of CoEs in Orthopedic Surgery.
- August 2025: Announced CoEs for Oncology, with a focus on breast cancer care.

Key Objectives:

- Deliver advanced and specialized medical care.
- Ensure consistent, high-quality healthcare services.
- Improve patient outcomes and treatment standards.
- Promote research, innovation, and medical education.
- Establish Abu Dhabi as a leading medical tourism destination. ⁽²⁵⁾

GCC Medical Tourism Market 2024 - 2033 (USD Billion)



Insurance Industry Perspective

- Cross-Border Care: Insurers enable medical tourism by lowering domestic costs and protecting patients abroad. ⁽²⁶⁾ ⁽²⁷⁾
- Inbound Patients: Treated as private patients; coverage via private/employer insurance, international payers, or self-pay. ⁽²⁸⁾ ⁽²⁵⁾
- Gaps & Opportunities: Limited acceptance of foreign insurance, weak post-treatment coverage chance to design integrated products. ⁽²⁹⁾ ⁽²⁵⁾
- Support Role: Added value through travel assistance, emergency coverage, evacuation, claims handling, and post-treatment coordination. ⁽³⁰⁾ ⁽³¹⁾

* This value is calculated by **BADRI**.

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Future Outlook

- Trends: Rapid growth in telemedicine, rising from USD 102.9 B in 2022 to USD 893.7 B by 2032 (~24% CAGR), driven by digital health adoption and wellness tourism. ⁽³²⁾ ⁽³³⁾
- Opportunities: Growing demand from NRIs (Non-Resident Indian), expats, and high-net-worth individuals. ⁽³⁴⁾ ⁽³⁵⁾
- Risks: Post-discharge continuity, regulatory gaps, and competition from established destinations. ⁽³⁵⁾ ⁽³³⁾

Real-Life Examples

Success stories from GCC hospitals

Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi saw a 35% rise in international patients in 2024 (10,000+ visits from GCC, South Asia, and the USA). Its Fatima bint Mubarak Center earned JCI accreditation, reinforcing its leadership in advanced oncology care. ⁽³⁷⁾ ⁽³⁸⁾

Key Takeaways

- The medical tourism market offers high-quality, cost-effective healthcare services and is growing globally, including in the GCC.
- GCC nations are emerging as healthcare hubs via government support.
- Insurers can stand out with tailored cross-border coverage and post-care support.
- Targeted policies in high-demand specialties (cosmetic, fertility, cardiac, orthopaedic) can attract international patients.

Cost Comparison of Major Surgeries (Average Approx. Value in USD):

Procedure	UAE (USD)	India (USD)	Turkey (USD)	US (USD)
Closed Heart Surgery ⁽³⁹⁾	20,000	5,500	9,500	61,410
IVF (In Vitro Fertilization) overall cost (2-3 weeks) ⁽³⁹⁾	6,500	4,000	5,500	14,000
Hip Replacement (Total / Unilateral) ⁽³⁹⁾	15,250	9,750	12,250	27,030
Cosmetic Rhinoplasty ⁽³⁹⁾ ⁽⁴⁰⁾	11,500	3,750	4,375	32,500
Knee Replacement Surgery U/L ⁽³⁹⁾	21,500	5,000	6,250	42,500
Organ Transplant				
Kidney Transplant ⁽³⁹⁾	30,000	13,000	20,000	442,500
Lung Transplant ⁽⁴¹⁾	367,500	118,598	249,910	1,300,000
Liver Transplant ⁽⁴²⁾ ⁽⁴³⁾	187,000	30,000	62,500	575,000
Bone Marrow Transplant ⁽⁴²⁾ ⁽⁴⁴⁾	90,000	27,500	55,000	200,000
Cornea Transplant ⁽⁴²⁾	12,000	2,000	6,250	25,000
Oncology				
Chemotherapy ⁽³⁹⁾	3,400	650	18,710	27,000
Intensity-modulated radiotherapy (IMRT) ⁽³⁹⁾	5,000	4,500	7,500	19,813

Above are the average cost, the actual cost may vary materially depending on the severity of treatment and provider setting.

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Our Team



Hatim Maskawala
Managing Director



Naveen Joshi
Health Practice Lead
Actuarial



Rahim Gowani
Sr. Manager Actuarial



Affrah Khalid
Assistant Manager
Actuarial



Warisha Khan
Actuarial Analyst



Muhammad Hamza Khan
Actuarial Analyst



Sapna Diwakar Sonkusre
Junior Actuarial
Analyst

Follow us on!



Get in Touch with us!

 +971 4 493 6666

 www.badriconsultancy.com

 Email: info@badriconsultancy.com

UAE OFFICE

2107 SIT Towers,
PO Box 341486,
Dubai Silicon Oasis,
Dubai, UAE

KSA OFFICE

Office 36, King
Abdulaziz Road,
Ar Rabi, Riyadh -
13315

PAKISTAN OFFICE

KARACHI

7B 2-6, 7th Floor, Fakhri Trade
Center, Shahrah-e-Liaquat,
Karachi, 74200

LAHORE

POPCORN STUDIO, Co-Working
Space, Johar Town 59-B,
Khayaban e Firdousi, Block B,
Phase 1, Johar Town, Lahore

EGYPT OFFICE

E-Scapes IT Solutions 13
Makkah St, Mohandiseen,
Giza, Egypt

UK OFFICE

c/o Argenesis: Lloyds
Building, 1 Lime Street,
London EC3M 7HA