

BUSINESS COUNCIL REPORT



SECTOR REPORT

# U.A.E. Healthcare and Life Sciences Sector

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## The U.S.-U.A.E. Business Council

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### **U.S.-U.A.E. Business Council**

2001 K Street NW  
Suite 201 North  
Washington D.C.  
+202.863.7285  
[news@usuaebusiness.org](mailto:news@usuaebusiness.org)

[usuaebusiness.org](http://usuaebusiness.org)

## INTRODUCTION

Building on the U.S.–U.A.E. Business Council’s previous reports on the U.A.E.’s healthcare and life sciences sector, this updated edition provides U.S. companies with the latest insights needed to engage in the next phase of the country’s healthcare and life sciences development. This February 2026 report underscores **the U.A.E.’s accelerated adoption of digital health and biotechnology**, with particular emphasis on advancements in **personalized medicine, preventive care, genomics, pre-clinical and clinical trial activity, domestic pharmaceutical manufacturing, and the continued build-out of medical and healthcare infrastructure**.

**The U.A.E. remains deeply committed to strengthening partnerships with U.S. firms** following a banner year of U.S.–U.A.E. bilateral cooperation, including the **U.A.E.’s commitment to a 10-year \$1.4 trillion investment framework with the United States**, and **U.S. President Donald Trump’s visit to the U.A.E. in May 2025**. These partnerships will expand local capabilities, support its position as a medical tourism hub, and foster an ecosystem that promotes innovation and thought leadership.

Aligned with national policy priorities, **the U.A.E. continues to accelerate advancements in genomics, pharmaceutical manufacturing, and clinical research**. Life sciences growth has been propelled by the development of specialized clusters, the expansion of biosimilar manufacturing capabilities, and the increasing presence of major pharmaceutical companies establishing local operations. The U.A.E.’s pharmaceutical **market is projected to reach USD 4.7 billion by the end of 2025**, driven in part by government initiatives such as the **Dubai Industrial Strategy 2030**, the establishment of **Mubadala BIO**, and **Abu Dhabi’s Health, Endurance, Longevity, and Medicine (HELM) cluster**.

- A partnership between Abu Dhabi Department of Economic Development (ADDED), the Abu Dhabi Investment Office (ADIO), and the Department of Health Abu Dhabi (DOH), the **Health, Endurance, Longevity, and Medicine (HELM) cluster** is a **\$25.5 billion initiative aimed at boosting pharmaceutical manufacturing, building an AI-driven life sciences ecosystem, attracting leading global healthcare companies, and driving breakthroughs in preventive care, treatment effectiveness, and longevity**.
  - By 2045, the **HELM cluster alone is expected to contribute USD 25.6 billion to Abu Dhabi’s GDP**, attract USD 11.5 billion in investment, and create approximately 30,000 jobs.
- **Masdar City Free Zone created a dedicated life sciences cluster that includes the region’s first Bio-Bank**, more than 50 biotechnology companies, and state-of-the-art research and development facilities supporting innovation in rare diseases, genomics, cell and gene therapies, and both pre-clinical and clinical trials.
- Mubadala Investment Company **launched Mubadala Bio** in May 2025, committed to **strengthening the life sciences sector and advancing better health outcomes in the U.A.E.**
- In June 2025, **Abbott Laboratories entered a partnership with the Department of Health Abu Dhabi (DOH) to manufacture medicines in Abu Dhabi** as part of the U.A.E.’s effort to strengthen its supply chains and bolster its overall healthcare system.

Together, these developments underscore the U.A.E.’s emergence as a global hub for research and development, genomic innovation, and personalized medicine.

**The U.A.E. remains at the forefront of integrating AI, machine learning, and digital technologies across its healthcare and life sciences sectors.** AI-enabled diagnostic tools, predictive analytics, and

personalized treatment pathways are enhancing patient outcomes while improving operational efficiency and reducing costs.

- The implementation of electronic medical record systems, **Malaffi in Abu Dhabi and NABIDH in Dubai**, has eased administrative burdens, particularly in medical record management.
- **M42 and Oracle Health, in November 2025, partnered to support the creation of a unified, longitudinal patient record system to integrate the data sourced from the Emirati Genome Program** into an electronic health record (EHR) that is accessible across the U.A.E.
- **Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi is collaborating with the Department of Health Abu Dhabi (DOH) and Neuralink to launch the Middle East's first human brain-computer interface (BCI) study – the U.A.E.-PRIME trial.** This BCI, like the Neuralink N1 Implant, will allow individuals with severe paralysis and speech impairments to control devices and interact with the digital world using only their thoughts.

**A key enabler of this progress is the seamless and secure flow of health data**, supported by close collaboration between U.A.E. regulators and industry stakeholders to ensure efficient information exchange. The U.S.-U.A.E. Business Council has been a key player in bringing together government and industry through its **healthcare working group**. Leveraging AI to analyze this extensive data ecosystem has allowed the U.A.E. to advance clinical genomic research, strengthen disease prevention efforts, and contribute to the development of precision medicine and life science strategies on a global scale.

**The U.A.E. continues to strengthen its collaboration with U.S. hospital groups and research institutions** to expand bilateral partnerships and enhance healthcare infrastructure.

- In July 2025, **the Department of Health Abu Dhabi (DOH) appointed Aetna International as the third-party administrator for international patient care, overseeing treatment pathways for Emirati patients referred by the DOH.** This partnership is designed to improve patient experience by broadening the DOH's U.S. provider network and increasing access to specialized medical services.
- In November 2025, **Google announced the launch of YouTube Health in the U.A.E.**, a new digital health platform that will deliver accurate, evidence-based medical information in Modern Standard Arabic from leading medical experts to users across the Middle East.

These developments reflect the U.A.E.'s ongoing commitment to advancing healthcare delivery, digital health innovation, and international collaboration.

**The U.A.E. has leveraged its global connectivity to become a leading destination for medical tourism, a market projected to reach USD 111 billion by 2029.** As employers increasingly invest in international care options for their workforce, the U.A.E. is well-positioned to capture this growth.

- Strengthening its role in the sector, **M42 has partnered with the Medical Tourism Association and Mastercard to enhance the medical tourism ecosystem** by improving secure payment solutions, streamlining travel logistics, and expanding international patient access to M42 facilities such as Healthpoint and the Imperial College London Diabetes & Endocrine Centre.

**The U.A.E. is repositioning itself from a regional to a global convenor for healthcare and life sciences thought leadership.**

- Dubai's flagship annual healthcare conference, formerly known as Arab Health, has rebranded as **World Health Expo (WHX) Dubai and remains the largest gathering of healthcare and trade professionals in the Middle East.** Arab Health 2025 drew more than 3,800 exhibitors, 130,000 in-person attendees, and 320 speakers from 183 countries, generating USD 1.81 billion in business. This is a key plank of U.S.-U.A.E. Business Council programming.

- In Abu Dhabi, the annual Abu Dhabi Global Healthcare Week (ADGHW) has been rebranded to **A Global Initiative by Abu Dhabi (Future Health)**, marking the **transformation of ADGHW to a year-round platform for international health collaboration, action, and innovation**. This conference reflects the emirate's ambition to become a global center for healthcare and life sciences research, development, and manufacturing. **The U.S.–U.A.E. Business Council has twice led U.S. Department of Commerce–certified trade delegations of executives from 25 American companies exploring market entry or expansion opportunities in the U.A.E., with strong support from the U.S. Mission.**

WHX Dubai and Future Health are just two of many major healthcare and life sciences conferences that highlight the U.A.E.'s expanding role as a regional and global hub for sector-wide collaboration and innovation.

This report provides a snapshot of both challenges and opportunities for our member companies in the U.A.E. healthcare market and offers resources for businesses entering the market. This report provides an overview of the latest developments and the potential for growth of the U.A.E. healthcare market, government reforms necessary to meet the demands of this evolving ecosystem, both from a regulatory and service provision perspective, and the steps that the government is taking to meet these demands. Secondly, this report takes a closer look at the different actors and entities in the U.A.E. healthcare sector – from regulators to providers, insurers to manufacturers, researchers to educators, and others that are driving this rapid change.

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## PART I: GENERAL TRENDS

The U.A.E. continues developing capabilities across the full spectrum of healthcare to achieve its goal of becoming a global leader in healthcare and life sciences, significantly investing in the sector to strengthen its position as a hub for medical innovation. In recent years, the U.A.E.'s primary focus has been on:

- Building out its **life sciences sector** through investments in genomics, promoting domestic pharmaceutical manufacturing and clinical research.
- Expanding its **healthcare infrastructure** through establishing new hospitals, care centers, and medical education institutions to increase domestic healthcare capacity.
- Attracting and **fostering local manufacturing, technology, innovation, artificial intelligence (AI), and research and development (R&D)** within the healthcare and life science sectors.

These initiatives are aligned with the U.A.E. government's overarching goal of creating a world-class healthcare ecosystem that provides exceptional medical care to its residents while positioning the country as a leader in healthcare research, international collaborations, and innovative healthcare solutions.

### A. Growth

The U.A.E. healthcare and life sciences market has grown rapidly over the past decade and continues to see steep growth. The healthcare sector generated more than \$4.67 billion in annual revenue in 2024.<sup>1</sup> In 2025, the federal government allocated AED 5.75 billion (\$1.57 billion) to healthcare spending.<sup>2</sup> There are 162 hospitals in the country, and a total of 5,369 hospitals and clinics.<sup>3</sup>



Factors contributing to the growth trajectory of the U.A.E. healthcare and life sciences sector include:

#### Population and Demographic Changes

- Population growth has been one driver of this expansion and will continue to be the case in the future. Current UN forecasts predict that the U.A.E. population will continue to grow to about 11.1 million in 2030, 13.2 million in 2050, and 14.8 million in 2100.<sup>4</sup>
- Demographic shifts towards an aging population are also driving the growth of the U.A.E.'s domestic healthcare sector needs. The estimated share of the U.A.E.'s population above the age of 65, according to the World Bank, will increase from 1.1% at present to 4.4% by 2030. Similarly, the growth of the long-term resident population will result in higher demand for maternity, neonatal, and pediatric care as expatriates will increasingly give birth and raise children in the U.A.E.

#### Lifestyle and Public Health

- Diseases resulting from unhealthy lifestyle habits continue to be prevalent among the U.A.E.'s citizens and residents. Obesity and its comorbidities, such as diabetes and cardiovascular diseases, account for the majority of mortalities among the U.A.E. population. Cardiovascular

disease remains the leading cause of death in the U.A.E., accounting for 34% of all deaths. Around 12% of the population between the ages of 20 and 79 years old suffer from type 2 diabetes.<sup>5</sup>

- Health problems stemming from the widespread use of tobacco, especially among youth, are also common. A study published in the Oman Medical Journal estimates the prevalence rates of smoking in the U.A.E. to range from 23.4%–24.7% in men and 0.8% in women – a rate low in comparison to many countries in the Middle East, but high compared to the rate of 12.5% among adults in the United States.<sup>6</sup> With the ease of access to non-traditional smoking methods, such as midwakh, sheesha, and electronic vapes, it is expected that these rates will continue to increase.

### **Mental Health**

- Mental healthcare is a growing field of medicine in the U.A.E., with patients seeking professional help to address mental health concerns, including anxiety, depression, and stress. Growing demand for mental healthcare has shown a gap in the supply of access to mental health professionals, creating a new market to access their services conveniently. Seeking convenient medical care has increased demand for convenient and accessible mental health services, such as online therapy and telemedicine.
- Telehealth has increased access to healthcare and mental health services, a trend that was adopted during the COVID-19 pandemic. Telehealth services have both increased efficiency and reduced the burden on in-person healthcare facilities in supporting mental health services.

### **Medical Tourism**

- In addition to growing local demand, medical tourism is another significant demand factor driving the U.A.E. healthcare and life science sector growth. The U.A.E. is one of the fastest-growing destinations for medical tourism globally. Medical tourists spent \$722.5 million in 2024, and that number is expected to grow to \$4.4 billion by 2033.<sup>7</sup>
- Dubai has become a global hub for patients seeking treatment from across the region, Asia, Africa, and Europe. The Dubai Health Authority reported 691,000 medical tourists who spent \$280 million in 2023.<sup>8</sup>
- Abu Dhabi has also been a popular destination for medical tourism in the U.A.E., with Abu Dhabi Investment Office (ADIO) reporting 17,000 medical tourists in 2024.<sup>9</sup>
- Ras Al Khaimah (RAK) has also seen growth in medical tourism in 2024; RAK Hospital has tripled its capacity to meet patient demand and will become a 200-bed facility by the end of 2025.<sup>10</sup>

### **Genomics and Personalized Care**

- Standard of care has also experienced sharp growth over recent years due to improvements in technology and healthcare innovation. The introduction of Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools in the provision and application of healthcare is improving patient experience and has significant potential to scale up. Additionally, U.A.E. government entities have deployed national strategic plans to emphasize AI integration in the healthcare sector.
- In the healthcare sector, AI is being used to improve disease diagnoses, treatment and prevention, and enhance capabilities for genomics and personalized medical treatment.
- Signed in 2019, the National Artificial Intelligence Strategy 2031 placed significant emphasis on the healthcare sector, driving AI integration.<sup>11</sup> Following the adoption of the National AI Strategy in 2023, the Ministry of Health and Prevention (MOHAP) launched the first Centre of Excellence (COE) for AI in the U.A.E. healthcare sector.

As part of its broader vision to create a technologically advanced healthcare system powered by big data and AI, the U.A.E. is in the process of developing one of the world's largest and most diverse genomic databases.

- The **Emirati Genome Project** has collected and sequenced genomic data approximately 750,000 Emirati citizens to aid in the prevention and treatment of chronic diseases and provide personalized medicine to its citizens.<sup>12</sup> This initiative is a key component of the U.A.E.'s strategy to leverage genomic data for advancements in personalized medicine and healthcare innovation.<sup>13</sup>

### **Telemedicine and Telehealth**

- Telemedicine and telehealth have also been on the rise in the U.A.E. in recent years. The U.A.E. has continued to embrace technological advancements after the COVID-19 pandemic to provide more efficient patient care. Recent investments into the U.A.E.'s digital health strategy have led to growth in telemedicine, data analytics, and AI-driven diagnostics.<sup>14</sup>
- Technological advancements in the healthcare sector aim to streamline healthcare operations and improve healthcare delivery to support comprehensive and accessible healthcare solutions. Telehealth growth, specifically in virtual consultations and diagnostic services, has increased employment demand for healthcare tech careers in the U.A.E. in areas of software development, cybersecurity, and virtual care management.<sup>15</sup>

The result of the U.A.E.'s sustained commitment to investment in healthcare infrastructure, technology, research, and innovation is the steady and rapid improvement in healthcare quality in the U.A.E. In 2023, the Legatum Institute's Legatum Prosperity Index report ranked the U.A.E. 33<sup>rd</sup> in health globally, and second (after Israel) in the Middle East and North Africa, in terms of healthcare quality.<sup>16</sup> The same report also ranked the U.A.E. first in four important global competitiveness indices in the healthcare industry: measles immunization, antenatal care coverage, existence of national screening programs, and scope of healthcare coverage.<sup>17</sup> Importantly, the U.A.E. also ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> globally for satisfaction with healthcare.<sup>18</sup>

## **B. Challenges**

The tremendous growth of the U.A.E.'s healthcare market has driven policies and initiatives aimed at mitigating the biggest challenge still facing the country: recruiting, training, and retaining healthcare professionals.

### **Strengthening Human Capital**

The U.A.E. is facing an ongoing shortage of healthcare professionals, with projections indicating a gap of 20,000 nurses and allied health professionals in the U.A.E.<sup>19</sup> This growing deficit presents significant challenges to meeting the country's expanding healthcare needs and ensuring sustainable care delivery in the coming decade. Several factors complicated the adequate staffing of qualified medical personnel in the U.A.E., and government action in recent years has aimed at mitigating these challenges.

- In October 2021, the U.A.E. announced sweeping reforms to its visa process by granting all frontline health workers and their families a 10-year golden visa.<sup>20</sup> This initiative, under the direction of U.A.E. President Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed, has provided stability for healthcare workers and their

families in the U.A.E., who were also supported throughout the pandemic with schooling cost assistance and free flights home to visit their families.

- In April 2021, MoHAP launched the National Strategy for Nursing and Midwifery – Roadmap for 2026. This strategy serves to encourage U.A.E. citizens and residents to become nurses and midwives, to promote public training programs for them, and to raise the quality of nursing care provided domestically.<sup>21</sup>
  - Endorsed in cooperation with MoHAP, the National Institute for Health Specialties- a U.A.E. national institute established to spearhead, regulate, and organize professional development for the healthcare workforce located within U.A.E. University- launched three specialized nursing residency programs, including a residency for recent graduates, a program in critical care for adults, and a program for nursing care for mental health.<sup>22</sup>
- In 2023, the Department of Health- Abu Dhabi (DOH) set Emiratization targets “Tawteen” for all healthcare facilities operating in Abu Dhabi to provide 5,000 new job opportunities for U.A.E. nationals until the end of 2025.<sup>23</sup>
  - In January of 2024, the DOH exceeded Emiratization goals by attracting over 1,200 national healthcare professionals and achieved a 12 percent year-on-year growth in the healthcare sector’s national workforce within six months of launching the Tawteen initiative.<sup>24</sup>

## Developing Specialized Capabilities

Another area that remains a focus for the U.A.E. government is continued investment in specialized and tertiary care facilities, an area of continued need in the healthcare and life sciences sector. Leading U.S. hospitals are helping address this challenge through partnerships with the U.A.E. to provide specialized care.

- In Abu Dhabi, institutions such as **Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi and Sheikh Shakhbout Medical City (SSMC)** exemplify progress in providing specialized care of various types and levels in the country by recruiting international doctors and providers and developing local centers of excellence.
  - **The Diabetes Mellitus Program at Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi (CCAD)** is a Medical Subspecialties Institute operating within CCAD that provides specialized care, patient education, and multidisciplinary medical advisory to its patients.<sup>25</sup>
  - **Cedars-Sinai** maintains a strategic collaboration with **SSMC**, designed to enhance clinical excellence and elevate patient care. This collaboration has already enabled successful Visiting Physician engagements in partnership with the Department of Health’s International Patient Center, including specialties such as plastic surgery.
- **Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center**, in partnership with **PureHealth, SEHA and Sheikh Khalifa Medical City (SKMC)**, announced the **establishment of a center for pediatric excellence in Abu Dhabi**.
  - This collaboration spans all aspects of pediatric care, research, and education, uniting the expertise of Cincinnati Children’s with the vision of SEHA SKMC to set new benchmarks in child health.<sup>26</sup>
- **As Abu Dhabi’s first hospital, Kanad Hospital** has earned recognition as the first private hospital in Abu Dhabi Emirate to achieve Joint Commission International (JCI) accreditation and the first hospital worldwide to receive JCI Clinical Care Program Certifications for Respiratory Distress Syndrome treatment in newborns and Natural Birth After Cesarean Section programs.
  - Founded in 1960 by American missionary physicians Drs. Pat and Marian Kennedy, Kanad Hospital’s profound impact on the nation’s founding is deeply personal to the U.A.E.’s leadership: His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE, was born at Kanad Hospital (then known as Oasis Hospital) in 1961.

- During a historic visit to Abu Dhabi in May 2025, His Highness shared with President Donald Trump that the U.A.E.'s first maternity hospital was established by Christian missionaries from America, and that before Kanad's founding, half of all children and a quarter of all mothers died during childbirth.
- **Abu Dhabi's Danat al Emarat Hospital** is a specialty women and children's hospital which is part of the M42 group. Established in 1975, NMC Specialty Hospital in Abu Dhabi is a multi-specialty hospital providing over 35 specialty care services to Abu Dhabi.<sup>27</sup>
- Dubai is home to two of the most important children's and women's hospitals, **Al Jalila Children's Specialty Hospital and Medcare Women & Children Hospital**.<sup>28</sup>
  - In July 2024, DP World donated 15 million AED (approximately 4.1 million USD) to the Al Jalila Foundation to support the development of the Hamdan bin Rashid Cancer Hospital.<sup>29</sup> The allocated funds by DP World will support the development of Dubai's first integrated cancer hospital, scheduled to open in 2026. The advanced healthcare facility will feature 50 clinics, 30 research areas, 60 infusion rooms, and 116 inpatient beds spread across a sprawling 56,000-square-metre campus.<sup>30</sup>
- **Dubai Health Care City (DHCC)**, the emirate's healthcare free zone, has grown to include nearly 200 hospitals and clinical facilities and is continuously working to attract investment from local and international healthcare businesses, with a specific focus on those providing specialty services.<sup>31</sup>
- **The Diabetes Center in Dubai at Emirates Hospitals Group** offers a comprehensive and multidisciplinary approach to diabetes care. Its team of diabetes specialists has subspecialized expertise and works to create individualized treatment plans for its patients.<sup>32</sup>
- In the northern emirates, **Sheikh Khalifa Medical City Ajman (SKMCA)** operates the Rashid Centre for Diabetes and Research, a multidisciplinary diabetes research center operating 7 different clinical research units. Professionals in the research center work together in cooperation with other departments of the center to provide diagnosis, counseling, education, treatment and lifestyle options, support, and motivation to the patients.<sup>33</sup>
- In Sharjah, the **Al Qassimi Women's and Children's Hospital** specializes in women's health, maternity, and pediatric care and is under the purview of the Emirates Health Services (EHS) Sheikh Khalifa Specialty Hospital in Ras Al Khaimah is a specialty hospital providing treatment services with a focus on oncology, cardiovascular, and neuroscience.<sup>34</sup>

## Navigating the Regulatory Framework

The U.A.E. healthcare sector has grown rapidly in recent years, driven by government investment, technological innovation, and population growth. To support its goal of becoming a global healthcare hub, the U.A.E. has established a robust regulatory framework. Understanding this regulatory landscape is essential for healthcare providers, investors, and legal professionals to remain compliant and operate successfully.

- The U.A.E. is a rapidly evolving regulatory environment with significant legislative reforms having reshaped healthcare governance across the U.A.E.
  - Dubai's Public Health Law No. (5) of 2025 introduced a robust three-tiered regulatory framework involving the Dubai Health Authority (DHA), Dubai Municipality, and Dubai Academic Health Corporation.<sup>35</sup>
  - The U.A.E. recently shifted **key responsibilities from the Ministry of Health and Prevention (MOHAP) to the Emirates Drug Establishment (EDE)** including how medical products, pharmaceuticals, devices, clinical research and related regulatory functions are governed.<sup>36</sup>
- **Multiple regulators across the U.A.E.** pose challenges for industry. Health authorities in different emirates operate with high autonomy, resulting in varied licensing processes for physicians and

facilities. For example, **what's approved in Abu Dhabi may require a separate authorization in Dubai.**

- For more information on the U.A.E.'s regulatory framework, please see Part II, Section A of this report.
- **Data sovereignty and cross-border data transfer regulation is constantly** evolving and is often interpreted by regulators on a case-by-case basis.
  - Additionally, rapidly evolving compliance regulation requires heavy investment in digital infrastructure and ongoing staff training.

## C. Government Strategies

The U.A.E. federal government – which broadly oversees the country's healthcare sector and funds non-private healthcare in the northern emirates – has developed strategic plans to both respond to the growing demand for healthcare and meet the associated challenges. The U.A.E. government spending on healthcare infrastructure is expected to exceed \$30 billion by 2027, accounting for 6% of GDP by 2026.<sup>37</sup> Significant investments have also been directed into research and technologies, with the Ministry of Finance allocating \$1.3 billion to the healthcare sector, approximately 7.6% of the total annual budget.<sup>38</sup> Currently, the U.A.E.'s health research is growing at a rate three times faster than the global average.<sup>39</sup>

### National Plans

- The **U.A.E. Centennial 2071 project**, launched in 2017, is a long-term government strategy aimed at positioning the U.A.E. as the best country in the world by 2071. This federal initiative drives developments across various sectors, including healthcare and life sciences, as part of the nation's broader vision for sustainable growth and innovation.<sup>40</sup>
- We the **U.A.E. 2031 Vision** is a major federal strategy, designed to position the U.A.E. among the world's top 10 nations for healthcare quality, alongside a range of other ambitious goals for national advancement.<sup>41</sup>
  - Building upon a previous strategic plan, the U.A.E.'s Vision 2021, which made achieving "world-class healthcare" one of its priority goals. In executing both strategic initiatives, the U.A.E. achieved status as the leading country in Joint Commission International (JCI)<sup>42</sup> accredited hospitals, after the U.S., with more than 200 accredited health facilities.<sup>42</sup>
- The **National Strategy for Wellbeing 2031** was developed to adopt a comprehensive, holistic approach to health, fostering a broad framework for improving overall well-being across the nation.
  - The National Strategy for Wellbeing 2031 seeks to promote an integrated approach to wellbeing and make the U.A.E. a global leader in quality of life.<sup>43</sup>
  - The strategy focuses on three key components—individuals, society, and the nation—and encompasses 90 initiatives across 40 priority areas, including promoting healthy and active lifestyles, fostering mental well-being, encouraging positive thinking, and strengthening family bonds.<sup>44</sup>
- The **U.A.E.'s National Genome Strategy** aims to establish a comprehensive framework of laws and regulations to support the development and implementation of genomic programs, improving public health priorities and wellbeing in the UAE. To be implemented over 10 years from the year 2023, it will accelerate solutions for personalized, preventive, and precision medicine to combat chronic, genetic, and rare diseases.<sup>45</sup>
  - In line with the National Genome Strategy, the **Emirates Genome Council** was founded to oversee genomics projects developed in collaboration with stakeholders across the U.A.E.<sup>46</sup>
  - In 2025, the UAE also developed its genomics agenda by making genetic screening mandatory for all Emiratis in premarital exams. The Emirates Genome Council also approved

four nationwide screening programs for newborns, adults, fertility, and cardiovascular diseases.<sup>47</sup>

- Emirates Health Services (EHS) launched the **Innovation Strategy 2023-2026**. The EHS Innovation Strategy 2023-2026 serves as a roadmap for enhancing the sustainability of the healthcare sector, empowering it to play a pivotal role in achieving the National Strategy for Wellbeing 2031, the We the U.A.E. 2031 vision, and the U.A.E. Centennial 2071 plan.<sup>48</sup>

As the U.A.E. redoubles its commitment to developing its healthcare sector, both at the federal and emirate levels, the private sector will have an important role to play. Private-sector healthcare spending is forecasted to increase at a cumulative annual growth rate of 9.5% and is expected to hit \$50 billion by 2029.<sup>49</sup> This growth offers tremendous opportunities for U.S. companies and healthcare institutions to partner with the U.A.E. government and private entities and build towards the realization of the U.A.E.'s healthcare objectives.



## PART II: SECTOR OVERVIEW

Under the oversight of both federal and emirate-level regulatory authorities, the U.A.E. is witnessing a boom in healthcare provision from both public and private sector institutions. Concurrently, the U.A.E. is rapidly expanding its pharmaceutical, medical equipment, healthcare data and IT, and medical education sectors while increasingly leveraging the power of AI.

### A. Regulation

The U.A.E. has several healthcare regulators at both the federal and emirate levels, each with its own geographic or functional purview. Two broad trends are shaping the U.A.E. healthcare regulation structure: (1) an expanding autonomy of emirate-level health authorities and (2) a changing ecosystem of cross-sector regulatory authorities.

- As the federal health regulator, the Ministry of Health and Prevention (MOHAP) is responsible for issuing laws and policies that are carried out by the emirate-level health authorities. However, as the Department of Health – Abu Dhabi (DOH) and the Dubai Health Authority (DHA) develop their priorities for growth and development in the health sector, the industry has reported cases of laws being applied differently in different emirates compared to federally.
  - **Data Regulations:** Data regulation has been a key policy issue undertaken in Abu Dhabi and has impacted the flow of health data between patients, providers, insurers, and researchers.
  - The DOH, in achieving its focus on strengthening local research, development, and manufacturing of medical products, has also facilitated the rise of its local institutions in managing service provision and data management. This trend is evidenced in the consolidation of the hospitals of the Abu Dhabi Health Services Company (SEHA) under PureHealth as well as in the enablement of technology company G42 with health and patient data sovereignty through efforts to localize data in-country.
  - In August 2024, the Abu Dhabi - Healthcare Information and Cyber Security Standard (ADHICS) version 2.0 came into effect and allows the use of sovereign (local) cloud data services for the storage and processing of health data within the U.A.E. ADHICS version 2.0 does not permit the use of cloud data services across the U.A.E.'s national borders. The previous ADHICS version 1.0 of 2019 did not permit the storage or processing of health data on cloud data services at all.
  - Like ADHICS version 1.0 of 2019, ADHICS version 2.0 of 2024 continues to restrict cross-border flows of health data, including for data resiliency and backup purposes, except when specific exemptions have been granted by the Department of Health – Abu Dhabi.
- Formed in October 2023 by the **U.A.E. Cabinet, the Emirates Drug Establishment (EDE)** is a federal entity with jurisdiction that extends across the U.A.E., including free zones, and is charged with regulating and licensing procedures for medical and pharmaceutical products, healthcare items, and nutritional supplements.<sup>50</sup>
- As the U.A.E.'s healthcare sector becomes increasingly intertwined with other sectors, especially technology, tourism, and logistics, other regulatory authorities will come into play in the health and life sciences ecosystem. **In the case of data regulation, with health data laws being created by both the relevant health authorities and the U.A.E.'s Ministry for Artificial Intelligence, Digital Economy, and Remote Work Applications.**
- Manufacturing across sectors, including healthcare, is stimulated by the Make It in the Emirates Initiative, a project of the Ministry of Industry and Advanced Technology, aimed at raising the GDP contribution of industrial manufacturing to over \$80 billion by 2030.<sup>51</sup>

Several important federal legislative developments in recent years are as follows:

- **Federal Decree Law No. 11 of 2023 on Unified Procurement for Medicines**, amending some provisions of the **Federal Law No. 8 of 2019 on Medical Products, Profession of Pharmacy, and Pharmaceutical Facilities**.<sup>52</sup>
  - This law, passed in April 2023, notably amended certain aspects of the U.A.E.'s regulations regarding the marketing and distribution of medical products, including pharmaceuticals and medical devices.
  - One of the most critical changes this law made was to require medical product developers to identify two, rather than one, local distributors when marketing their products in the U.A.E. Industry leaders noted that this policy, while important for protecting the availability of critical medical products in the event of supply chain disruptions, can create inefficiencies for companies that produce and market value-driven products, rather than volume-driven products. The U.S.-U.A.E. Business Council has worked with industry and U.A.E. government health authority leaders to facilitate discussions that reconcile industry recommendations for global best practices and U.A.E. leadership priorities.
  - Article 22 of Federal Decree Law No. 11 of 2023 states that, "A margin of preference may be granted in favor of participating suppliers who achieve the best public interest or added national value, or in favor of locally produced procurements." In combination with U.A.E. Federal Law No. 87 of 2023, which centralizes the procurement process for medicines, this "national value" article is expected to result in higher prices for medical products of suppliers that have higher overall levels of local manufacturing content or spending on local clinical research.
- The U.A.E. government issued **Federal Decree-Law No. 38 on Medical Products, Pharmacy Profession, and Pharmaceutical Establishments, replacing Federal Law No. 8 of 2019** and applies to medical devices, pharmaceutical products, healthcare items, biological products, dietary supplements, and cosmetics, and also includes biobanks and pharmaceutical establishments within free zones.<sup>53</sup>
  - The Decree-Law establishes a framework for licensing, supervising, and monitoring pharmaceutical establishments and biobanks, addresses ownership transfers, and defines the roles of the EDE, MOHAP, and local health authorities.<sup>54</sup> Under the Decree-Law, manufacturing facilities, contract-based manufacturing companies, medical warehouses, medical storage facilities, marketing firms, pharmaceutical consulting firms, and pharmaceutical laboratories are subject to licensing and monitoring by the EDE.
- **Ministerial Resolution No. 89 of 2023, Regarding Medical Products and Health Facilities that are excluded from Registration in the Drug Tracking and Monitoring Platform**.<sup>55</sup>
  - This ministerial resolution, passed in March 2023 by the MOHAP, refers to the ministerial resolution passed in 2021 requiring medical products distributed in the country to be registered using the Electronic Drug Tracking and Monitoring Platform, Tatmeen. This updated resolution excludes certain products from the requirement to register them on the Tatmeen platform, including intravenous nutrition, radioactive drugs, diagnostic imaging medications, blood and blood products/derivatives, medical gases, medical products of limited or rare demand, compound medicinal products prepared within the country in licensed pharmacies, and other approved products.
- **Federal Decree Law No. 10 of 2023, On Mental Health**.<sup>56</sup>

- This law, issued in October 2023, seeks to protect the rights of individuals with certain mental health conditions by establishing general rights of psychiatric patients, including in an employment context, and imposes various obligations on employers. This new law (Mental Health Law) came into force on 30 May 2024 and addresses the treatment and safeguarding of the rights of 'Psychiatric Patients' through regulating the relationship between 'Psychiatric Patients' and the parties they have relationships with, including employers.
- The Mental Health Law applies across the U.A.E., including free zones, except in the Abu Dhabi Global Market (ADGM) and Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC) free zones because of their preexisting statutory provisions protecting employees with mental health conditions.<sup>57</sup>
- **National Policy to Promote Healthy Lifestyles in the U.A.E.**<sup>58</sup>
  - This policy, issued in 2023, serves as a framework for the U.A.E.'s emphasis on promoting and supporting healthy lifestyles through pillars that include support from the leadership and government, sustainability, innovation, cooperation and shared participation, equality and transparency, and empowerment of communities.
- **Chairman's Resolution No. 146 of 2022**, Regarding the regulations for international patient care.<sup>59</sup>
  - This resolution, issued in 2022 by the Chairman of the Department of Health – Abu Dhabi, outlines the regulations for determining when patients should acquire medical referrals to receive treatment outside the country and the cost, travel, and family accommodation expenses provided.
- **Federal Decree Law No. 45 of 2021, On the Protection of Personal Data.**
  - This law, which came into effect in January 2022, deals with the protection of an individual's data and the flow of data across country borders. This law was released after consultation with industry, spearheaded by the U.S.-U.A.E. Business Council, and is the precursor to a future health data law and business data law.
- **Federal Law No. 13 of 2020, On Public Health.**<sup>60</sup>
  - This law, passed in November 2020, served to identify and define national strategies and procedures for the advancement of public health, noting an absence of the subject in previous laws issued. It outlined the coordination across levels of government in addressing public health concerns and the MOHAP's work to build community advocacy and understanding of public health topics.
  - Notably, it introduced a National Public Health Committee to be led by the MOHAP. It brought a variety of concerns and topics under the umbrella of "public health," including family health, individual health (at all ages and physical abilities), psychological health, healthy lifestyles, food safety, physical activity, controlling tobacco and its derivatives, occupational health, communicable diseases, non-communicable disease, environment health, hazardous product management, burial and cemetery sites, and medicinal products.
- **Federal Law No. 2 of 2019, On the Use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in Health Fields.**<sup>61</sup>
  - This law, announced in February 2019 by the then-President of the U.A.E., Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, aims to promote and ensure the optimal use of ICT in health fields by adopting standard practices and enabling MOHAP to collect, analyze, and store health data and ensure its security.

- This law created a Central System to keep, exchange, and collect health information and data, and, notably, restricted the storage and transfer of health information and data outside the state, unless in cases defined by the Health Authority in coordination with the Ministry. This provision in the law has created challenges for U.S. companies, particularly those in the insurance sector, as well as providers who serve patients both in the U.A.E. and the United States, and the U.S-U.A.E. Business Council has worked with industry and government to establish conversations that may synthesize mutually-beneficial solutions to these challenges.
- **U.A.E. Federal Law No 2 of 2019 (the Health Data Law)**, which regulates the use of information technology and communications in the healthcare sector, came into effect in May 2019 and prevents businesses from storing, processing, generating, or transferring health data outside the U.A.E. unless exemptions have been granted by an emirate health authority.
  - **U.A.E. Health Data Ministerial Resolution 51 of 2021**, which is an implementing regulation for the 2019 Health Data Law, allows health authorities in each emirate to grant exemptions allowing for cross-border flows of health data on a case-by-case and conditional basis until full compliance is possible. The process and criteria for receiving such exemptions are not consistent across the seven emirates. This restriction on cross-border flows of health data and the lack of clarity about what types of exemptions are available in each emirate are a concern for many U.S. companies.

## Federal Level

The most important federal regulatory authority in the U.A.E. healthcare sector is the Ministry of Health and Prevention.

### *Ministry of Health and Prevention (MOHAP)*

- The Ministry of Health and Prevention (MOHAP), formerly known as the Ministry of Health, oversees the implementation of government policy concerning the provision of healthcare for all U.A.E. citizens and residents.<sup>62</sup> Importantly, it has licensed and controlled the prices of drugs and medical devices nationwide.<sup>63</sup>
- MOHAP is working to achieve the objectives of the U.A.E.'s 'National Strategy for Wellbeing 2031', which aims to make the country a world leader in quality of life for its citizens and residents.
- In August 2025, MOHAP announced its successful redesign and restructuring of key services, reducing their number by 50%, as part of Phase II of the "Zero Government Bureaucracy" program.<sup>64</sup>
  - Launched by the U.A.E. government, the Zero Government Bureaucracy program aims to boost efficiency and provide faster government services to enhance the quality of institutional efficiency.
- In September 2025, H.E. Ahmed Al Sayegh was appointed Minister of Health and Prevention.<sup>65</sup>
- For more information, please visit [www.mohap.gov.ae](http://www.mohap.gov.ae)



## MOHAP Partnerships with U.S. Institutions

- **SAS** collaborated with MOHAP for the U.A.E.'s first Center of Excellence for Artificial Intelligence (AI), which launched in October 2023. This Center will aim to promote the digitalization of health data, employ smart technologies to develop health capacities, and establish a comprehensive digital services ecosystem for patients.
- **Viatis** signed a Memorandum of Understanding with MOHAP in September 2022 to support the Ministry's efforts, initiatives, campaigns, research, and workshops designed to achieve the objectives of the U.A.E.'s 'National Strategy for Wellbeing 2031'.
- **Janssen Pharmaceutical Companies of Johnson & Johnson** signed an appendix in February 2022 to their 2018 Memorandum of Understanding with MOHAP and Axios, a healthcare consulting firm, aimed at providing affordable medicines to uninsured and low-income expatriates suffering from pulmonary hypertension, multiple myeloma, ulcerative colitis and/or psoriatic arthritis.
- **Amazon Web Services (AWS)** signed a Memorandum of Understanding in January 2022 with MOHAP for partnership in creating a



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## Emirates Drug Establishment (EDE)

- Established in September 2023, The Emirates Drug Establishment (EDE) is the only federal authority responsible for regulating all medical and pharmaceutical products. This also includes medical devices, blood derivative products, genetically modified organisms, stem cells, medicated cosmetics, veterinary medications, and agricultural products. Setting unparalleled standards and a catalyst for groundbreaking innovation, EDE seeks to foster a collaborative ecosystem that will position the U.A.E. as a global beacon in healthcare.<sup>67</sup>

- As of **29 December 2025**, the U.A.E. implemented a **major structural shift** in how medical products, pharmaceuticals, devices, clinical research and related regulatory functions are governed: **key responsibilities are transitioning from the Ministry of Health and Prevention (MOHAP) to the Emirates Drug Establishment (EDE)**.<sup>68</sup>
  - Codified under Federal Decree-Law No. 38 of 2024, the EDE now serves as the sole federal authority, managing the entire product lifecycle from clinical trial authorization to post-market surveillance. This centralization aims to reduce administrative friction and create a predictable environment for research-intensive firms.
  - The new Federal Law also designates **EDE as the competent authority** in place of MOHAP for oversight, enforcement and regulatory decision-making.
- The EDE's leadership includes Director General Her Excellency Dr. Fatima Al Kaabi and the Board of Directors, which is chaired by H.E. Dr. Saeed bin Mubarak Al Hajeri, U.A.E. Minister of State for Foreign Trade.<sup>69</sup>
- For more information, please visit [www.ede.gov.ae](http://www.ede.gov.ae)

## Emirate Level

While healthcare provision in some emirates are regulated entirely by MOHAP and the Emirates Health Services (EHS), certain emirates or free zones also have their regulatory authorities, most notably the Department of Health – Abu Dhabi (DOH) and Dubai Health Authority (DHA).

### ***Department of Health – Abu Dhabi (DOH)***

- The Department of Health – Abu Dhabi (DOH) regulates the healthcare sector in Abu Dhabi. It defines the strategy of the health system, and it monitors and analyzes both the health status of the population and the performance of the system.
- Importantly, the International Patient Care (IPC) Office of the DOH refers Emiratis to leading U.S. hospitals for treatment.
  - As of July 30, 2025, the DOH appointed Aetna International as the third-party administrator to manage aspects of the international patient care process and aims to streamline processes with U.S. providers and improve coordination.
- The Chairman of the DOH is His Excellency Mansoor Al Mansoori, and its Undersecretary is Her Excellency Dr. Noura Al Ghaithi.<sup>70</sup>
- For more information, please visit [www.doh.gov.ae/en](http://www.doh.gov.ae/en)



## DOH Partnerships with U.S. Institutions

- **Aetna International** was appointed as a third-party administrator for U.S. international patient care as of 30 July 2025 and aims to streamline processes with U.S. providers and improve coordination. The partnership will only apply to patients referred by the DOH and aims to enhance patient experience by expanding the DOH's U.S. network and increase access to specialized services.
- **Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania (Penn Medicine)** signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the DOH in June 2024 to expand partnership in education, research, and innovation programs.
- **Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP)** signed an MoU with the DOH in June 2024 to advance research in pediatric oncology and gene therapy.
- **Illumina** signed an MoU with the DOH in June 2024 to develop the expertise, infrastructure, and skilled workforce for integrating genomics into clinical practice and translational research locally and internationally.
- **GSK** signed an MoU with the DOH in May 2024 to establish a regional vaccine distribution hub in Abu Dhabi.
- **Cedars-Sinai** has a long-standing and trusted relationship with the Department of Health – Abu Dhabi's International Patient Care (IPC) program, having supported the care of Emirati patients since 1998. Building on this history, the partnership has evolved to bring Cedars-Sinai expertise directly to Abu Dhabi through Visiting Physician engagements, allowing surgeons to operate on patients in the U.A.E. and collaborate closely with local clinical teams.



### **Dubai Health Authority (DHA)**

- Dubai Health Authority (DHA), which was created by Law No. 13 of 2007, is the main health regulatory authority in Dubai.
- DHA regulates all of Dubai's healthcare sector services by licensing healthcare facilities and professionals and inspecting health facilities. DHA also regulates the cost of healthcare in the emirate and runs special programs such as one meant to encourage young Emiratis to enter medical professions.
  - DHA is undergoing a major reorganization, especially in the area of public health and disaster and emergency management.
  - The DHA has collaborated with U.S. institutions such as the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC), Health and Human Services (HHS), and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), to learn best practices in public health protection.
- His Excellency Professor Alawi Alsheikh-Ali is its Director General.
- For more information, please visit [www.dha.gov.ae/en](http://www.dha.gov.ae/en)



### **Sharjah Health Authority**

- Sharjah Health Authority (SHA), which was established by Sharjah Emiri Decree No. 12 of 2010 (amended by Emiri Decree No. 33 of 2016), regulates Sharjah's healthcare system.
- According to SHA, its prime mission at present is to develop and manage Sharjah Healthcare City. It also manages the Sharjah Health Insurance Department.<sup>71</sup>
- His Excellency Dr. Abdulaziz Saeed Al Muhairi is Chairman of the Sharjah Health Authority. For more information, please visit [www.sha.gov.ae/en](http://www.sha.gov.ae/en)

## **B. Provision**

Public sector institutions and government-linked entities play a relatively outsized role in U.A.E. healthcare provision, apart from Dubai. However, the private sector is assuming an increasingly prominent role, aligning with a deliberate government strategy to encourage public-private partnerships and private-sector investment.

### **Public Sector**

The purely public sector institutions that play major roles in the U.A.E. healthcare provision are Dubai Health and Emirates Health Services (EHS), with EHS being particularly active in the northern emirates.

### **Dubai Health**

- Dubai Health is an integrated academic health system comprised of 6 hospitals, 26 ambulatory health centers, and 20 medical fitness centers. Its facilities include those previously operated by the Dubai Health Authority (DHA).
- Its flagship facilities include Dubai Hospital, Rashid Hospital, Latifa Women and Children Hospital, Hatta Hospital, Jebel Ali Hospital, and Al Jalila Children's Hospital. Its CEO is Dr. Amer Ahmad Sharif, who also serves as President of Mohammed bin Rashid University (MBZU).
- A jewel of Dubai Health is **Al Jalila Children's Hospital**.
  - In December 2008 Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the U.A.E. and Ruler of Dubai, announced the establishment of a dedicated 200-bed 692 million AED [\$188.4 million] children's specialty hospital named after his daughter, Sheikha Al Jalila.<sup>72</sup>

- Inaugurated on 1 November 2016, Al Jalila Children's is the first dedicated children's hospital in the U.A.E., and it aims to be a driving force behind tertiary and quaternary care in the region. The hospital has 28 fully operational clinics for pediatric healthcare, two leading educational programs, and several pediatric research studies.<sup>73</sup> It is affiliated with Alder Hey Children's, as well as Moorfields Eye Hospital in Dubai.<sup>74</sup>
- In 2021, Al Jalila announced its plan to introduce the first spinal muscular atrophy (SMA) gene therapy in the U.A.E. Al Jalila Children's Hospital is now a subsidiary of Dubai Health.
- For more information, please visit <https://dubaihealth.ae/>.

#### Al Jalila Children's Partnerships with U.S. Institutions

- **Children's National** expanded its partnership with Al Jalila Children's Hospital in October 2024 to grow its pediatric care facilities through increased technological collaboration, enhancing training programs and improving leadership training.



#### Emirates Health Services (EHS)

- The Emirates Health Services (EHS) consists of all hospitals, primary care facilities, and public health services, including 17 hospitals, 67 primary health centers, and over 100 clinics throughout the U.A.E., especially in the northern emirates.<sup>75</sup>
- Based in Dubai, the EHS has the aim of enhancing the efficiency of the federal health sector in the country by providing healthcare and treatment services, taking preventative measures in combating epidemics and diseases, and achieving sustainable development of healthcare. It also aims to implement the strategic health-related policies, standards, and preventative care measures set by MOHAP.
- EHS integrated the provision of healthcare treatment services, customer and patient experience services, federal medical training and education programs, digital health and information technology initiatives, and public health initiatives under its umbrella.
- In April 2020, H.E. Dr. Yousif Mohammed Al-Serkal was appointed to the role of Director General of the EHS after holding the position of Assistant Undersecretary for the Hospitals Sector at the Ministry of Health and Prevention since 2013.<sup>76</sup>
- Key public health-related initiatives of EHS include strategies to incorporate youth voices into health leadership discussions, attract citizens and residents to the nursing profession, a mental health support program for healthcare workers, a blood donation campaign, and a digital health and telemedicine promotional campaign.<sup>77</sup>
- EHS has also revolutionized its own health systems and operations by using blockchain, artificial intelligence, and other advanced information technologies, paving the way for further digitization of the U.A.E.'s broader healthcare sector.<sup>78</sup>
  - To address physician burnout, the EHS deployed 3M Fluency Direct, an AI-powered speech recognition solution, to ease documentation demands in January 2024.<sup>79</sup> Currently, all EHS



hospitals and primary health centers, with over 1,800 of the system's physicians, are being trained to use 3M Fluency Direct.

- More information can be found at <https://www.ehs.gov.ae/en/home>.

#### EHS Partnerships with U.S. Institutions

- **Oracle Cerner** provides an electronic health record system to EHS called Wareed, which is used by clinicians in the U.A.E. for Autism screening in young children and to reduce patient waiting times and no-shows.
- **Johnson and Johnson** and EHS signed an MoU in June 2022 to develop health services and collaborate on advanced technology solutions for the U.A.E. healthcare sector. This partnership is set to include a joint launch of the 'Silent Noise Campaign' to raise awareness about and destigmatize mental health conditions.
- **Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP)** signed an MoU with EHS at Arab Health 2022 to collaborate on enhanced medical services at Al Qassimi Women and Children's Hospital and establish a visiting physician/surgeon program for 7 physicians and 5 surgeons to cover 8 subspecialties in the northern emirates. This partnership has transferred knowledge through scientific education programs, conferences, and the EHS Simulation Center.

**ORACLE Cerner**

*Johnson & Johnson*

 **Children's Hospital  
of Philadelphia**

#### Ministry of Defense

- The Ministry of Defense is also a significant provider of healthcare in the U.A.E. Zayed Military Hospital, a part of Zayed Military City, is a 260-bed facility, including an ICU, Burn ICU, Cardiac Care Unit, and medical, surgical, and pediatric beds.
- The hospital has a psychiatric center located in a separate building, bringing the total aggregate number of beds to 300. The campus includes an ambulatory care component, as well as housing for the hospital's staff and physicians.

- The neurology department of the Zayed Military Hospital consists of some of the most innovative and advanced healthcare technologies in the U.A.E., such as Brainsuite ICT, Brainlab, and Haag Streit.
- The Ministry of Defense has strong relationships with leading U.S. hospitals to supplement its resources and ensure that military members and their families receive world-class care.

## Government-Linked Entities

Government-linked entities, most notably include PureHealth and M42, also play an important role in healthcare provision. PureHealth is a subsidiary of Abu Dhabi-based investment and holding company ADQ and is the largest integrated healthcare network in the U.A.E.<sup>80</sup> M42 is a partnership between the prominent Abu Dhabi government investment vehicle Mubadala Investment Company and G42 Healthcare, a division of G42, the U.A.E.’s homegrown artificial intelligence and technology company. Pure Health and M42 are both supporting the development of a world-class, commercially sustainable, private healthcare sector in the U.A.E.

### PureHealth

- **PureHealth is the U.A.E.’s largest healthcare group.** It was founded in 2006 and merged with all healthcare subsidiaries of ADQ in January 2022, making it the largest integrated health services provider.
  - In 2023, PureHealth made two major international acquisitions that contributed to its considerable growth.
    - In September 2023, it bought Circle Health Group, one of the largest independent hospital operators in the United Kingdom, for \$1.2 billion, PureHealth’s first entrance into the U.K. market.<sup>81</sup>
    - In May 2023, it completed its nearly \$500,000 acquisition of Ardent Health, one of the largest acute care hospitals in the United States, based in Nashville, Tennessee.<sup>82</sup>
- Shaista Asif is PureHealth’s Group CEO.
- For more information, please visit <https://purehealth.ae>.

### The Abu Dhabi Health Services Company (SEHA)

- In 2022, SEHA became an asset of PureHealth (owned by ADQ), which became the largest consolidated healthcare network in the U.A.E., consisting of 25 hospitals, 100 clinics, and 160 laboratories.<sup>83</sup>
  - Its other subsidiaries across the U.A.E.’s healthcare sector include the National Health Insurance Company (better known as Daman); the Medical Office (see above), which oversees the hospitals and health facilities of Sheikh Khalifa group; Rafed, a healthcare procurement company; PureLab; the Abu Dhabi Stem Cells Centre; One Health, a medical devices distributor, and the Life Corner, a pharmacy.<sup>84</sup>
- SEHA’s flagship business entities include Sheikh Khalifa Medical City, Sheikh Shakhbout Medical City, Al Rahba Hospital, Corniche Hospital (the U.A.E.’s largest maternity hospital), Al Ain Hospital, Tawam Hospital, and Al Dhafra Hospitals.
  - The Al Dhafra Hospitals business entity notably consists of six hospitals and four primary healthcare centers that serve the more than 200,000 people living in the 60,000-square-kilometer area of Abu Dhabi known as the Western (Al Gharbia) region.



- In addition, over the last several years, SEHA has embarked on the expansion of its health facilities in the Western Region, as well as adding new facilities, such as Al Towayya Children's Specialty Centre in Al Ain.<sup>85</sup>
- In May 2025, PureHealth and its subsidiary SEHA partnered with Cincinnati Children's, through SEHA Sheikh Khalifa Medical City (SKMC), to deliver world-class pediatric expertise to Abu Dhabi and the U.A.E.<sup>86</sup>
  - The partnership between SEHA SKMC and Cincinnati Children's marks a major milestone in advancing clinical services, research, and medical training and reflects their shared vision to reinforce Abu Dhabi's position as a global leader in advanced pediatric medicine and healthcare.
  - The agreement was signed during Abu Dhabi Global Health Week 2025.
- The Group Chief Executive Officer of SEHA is Saeed Jaber Al Kuwaiti, and its Group Chief Medical Officer is Dr. Anwar Sallam.
- For more information, please visit [www.seha.ae](http://www.seha.ae).

### **Sheikh Shakbout Medical City (SSMC)**

- Since opening Sheikh Shakbout Medical City (SSMC), SEHA has undertaken several highly publicized expansions of the hospital, including the addition of a dialysis center, a psychiatry center, and a pediatric dialysis unit.<sup>87</sup>
  - In October 2024, the Department of Health- Abu Dhabi designated SSMC as a Center of Excellence for Burn Treatments.<sup>88</sup> In January 2024, SEHA acquired Mayo Clinic's shares in Sheikh Shakbout Medical City (SSMC) in a \$150 million deal, acquiring 25,000 shares (25% of total issued shares).<sup>89</sup>
  - In April 2025, Northwestern Medicine signed an MoU with SSMC to facilitate enhanced training and education across clinical specialties. Working in partnership with SSMC physicians allows for bidirectional transfers of knowledge and improved patient care.
- The U.S. military medical teams, including the U.S. Air Force and Army, partnered with SSMC in Abu Dhabi to build **The Trauma, Burn and Rehabilitative Medicine (TBRM)** mission, a complex trauma, burn, and rehabilitation capabilities center.<sup>90</sup> Since partnering, SSMC has designated it as a Centre of Excellence for burns. As part of the partnership, U.S. Air Force and Army medical teams provide training and technical support to U.A.E. medical staff at SSMC.
- SSMC's CEO is Dr. Marwan Al Kaabi.
- For more information, please visit <https://ssmc.ae>.

### **The Medical Office**

- The Medical Office is a PureHealth Company that governs a network of advanced general and specialist hospitals across the U.A.E., including Sheikh Khalifa Hospitals in the northern emirates of the U.A.E. This includes eight hospitals and 13 centers of excellence.
- The Medical Office of the Ministry of Presidential Affairs (MOPA) has historically made a major push to expand the quantity and quality of healthcare provision in the U.A.E., particularly in the northern emirates.
  - MOPA funded the 750 million AED [\$204 million] Sheikh Khalifa General Hospital in Umm Al Quwain, which features clinics specializing in pediatrics, gynecology, emergency care, dialysis, and dermatology.<sup>91</sup>
  - MOPA also funded the 1 billion AED [\$272 million] 248-bed Sheikh Khalifa Specialty Hospital in Ras Al Khaimah (near the border with Umm Al Quwain).<sup>92</sup>

## PureHealth/SEHA Partnerships with U.S. Institutions

- **Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center** partnered with PureHealth and its subsidiary SEHA in April 2024 to announce a pediatric center of excellence in Abu Dhabi. With pediatric health as a key focus, the aim is to develop new treatments and therapies. Under the agreement, Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center will deliver services to the center, providing specialized pediatric care.
- **Northwestern Medicine** signed an MoU with Sheikh Shakhbout Medical City in April 2025 to facilitate enhanced training and education across clinical specialties. Working in partnership with SSMC physicians allows for bidirectional transfers of knowledge and improved patient care.
- **Johns Hopkins Medicine International** signed an agreement with SEHA in 2006 to manage the 479-bed Tawam Hospital in Al Ain City, which is a national referral center for oncology services. Two years later, it signed another agreement with SEHA to manage the 173-bed Al Rahba Hospital outside Abu Dhabi City.
- **Cedars-Sinai** is engaged in a collaborative relationship with The Medical Office – PureHealth, supporting their goals across a broad portfolio of hospitals in the Northern Emirates. Their work together focuses on structured peer reviews, clinical assessments, and targeted evaluations aimed at strengthening quality, safety, and operational performance across their system.
- **Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP)** signed a MoU with SEHA in October 2022 to facilitate enhanced medical research and education in the U.A.E. Working alongside SEHA's physicians in this clinic allows collaboration on patients' treatment plans and transfer of knowledge of leading research and innovation.



## M42

- M42 is a life sciences company aimed at revolutionizing the region's healthcare landscape and delivering personalized, patient-centric care to patients worldwide.
  - In 2022, Mubadala and G42, the U.A.E.'s leading artificial intelligence company, announced the merging of their healthcare businesses to create a new, first-of-its-kind integrated healthcare company through G42 and Mubadala's combined prowess in research, technology, AI, and genomics.
- M42's combination of healthcare and technology creates a unique, global tech-enabled healthcare company at the forefront of medical advancement. It is the largest healthcare company in the Middle East and serves as a provider and partner for the region.<sup>93</sup>
  - Some of its subsidiaries include Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi, Imperial College London Diabetes Center, National Reference Laboratory, Danat Al Emarat, Healthpoint, and Malaffi.
- In May 2024, M42 launched the next generation of its open-access generative AI Clinical Large Language Model (LLM) Med42. M42 initially unveiled Med42 in October 2023, with the intent to standardize accuracy, efficiency, and accessibility in healthcare AI. The first iteration of Med42 counts over 8,200 downloads to date from independent developers who have tested and validated the model's performance. This highlights Med42's efficiency and accessibility compared to larger, closed models and solidifies its position as a frontrunner in open-access clinical LLM technology.<sup>94</sup>
- The CEO of M42 is Dimitris Moulavasilis.
- For more information, please visit <https://m42.ae/>.



## M42 Partnerships with U.S. Institutions

- **Cleveland Clinic Foundation** and Mubadala Investment Company collaborated on the construction of Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi, a state-of-the-art medical institution on Al Maryah Island that offers world-class care to patients, closer to home. It boasts 15 institutes, including six centers of excellence in the following areas: Heart & Vascular, Neurological, Digestive Disease, Eye, and Respiratory and Critical Care. The hospital is the designated stroke and chest pain center for Abu Dhabi.
- **Oracle** and M42 partnered in 2025 to enable the creation of unified, longitudinal patient records that are accessible across the U.A.E. As part of the initiative, Oracle Health and M42 will integrate data from the Emirati Genome Program directly into the electronic health record (EHR) to enable pharmacogenomic recommendations at the point of care to support personalized, data-driven care. Using the Oracle Health Foundation EHR, M42 and Oracle Health will optimize healthcare delivery to prioritize prevention, healthy longevity, and healthy living.
- **GE Healthcare** and M42 in 2025 agreed to collaborate on pharmaceutical diagnostics and integrated, cloud-first AI-enabled digital solutions, to enhance diagnostic precision and deliver more personalized patient outcomes, marking a significant step forward in the future of smart healthcare in the U.A.E.
- **Microsoft** signed a \$1.5 billion strategic investment in G42 in April 2024 to co-innovate and deliver advanced AI solutions with Microsoft Azure. The deal advances G42's strategy of delivering generative AI and next-generation infrastructure and services for a range of customers across healthcare, financial services, energy, government and education.



A Mubadala Company



## Private Sector

The private sector plays an increasingly significant role in the provision of healthcare in the U.A.E., with some of the major players – and best-ranked private hospitals in the country, according to Newsweek – including Ahalia Group, Al Zahra Hospital Dubai, American Hospital Group, Arabian Healthcare Group, Aster DM Healthcare, Burjeel Holdings, Emirates Hospitals Group, International Modern Hospital, King's College Hospital London Dubai, Mediclinic Middle East, NMC Healthcare, Saudi German Hospital Group, and Zulekha Hospital.<sup>96</sup>

### ***Ahelia Group***

- Ahelia Group was founded in 1984 in Abu Dhabi as a small, single clinic and grew into a conglomerate of two multi-specialty hospitals, 20 satellite medical centers, 35 pharmacies, as well as a line of ophthalmology centers and optical shops. It also expanded to India, operating a range of facilities under the Ahelia Health Heritage and Knowledge Village in Kerala, India.<sup>97</sup>

### ***Al Zahra Hospital Dubai***

- Established in 2013, Al Zahra Hospital Dubai is a 187-bed facility located on Sheikh Zayed Road that hosts a medical team of 250 doctors and 400 nurses. The Al Zahra Group formerly operated a facility in Sharjah; however, that was acquired in 2017 by NMC Healthcare and renamed.<sup>98</sup>

### ***American Hospital Group***

- American Hospital, part of Mohamed and Obaid Al Mulla Group, was established in 1996 and encompasses multiple facilities in Dubai that, in total, host 254 beds and practice 40 medical and surgical specialties. All physicians at American Hospital are American Board Certified.<sup>99</sup>

### ***Arabian Healthcare Group***

- Arabian Healthcare Group is a global healthcare management and consulting firm set up in 2011 by the Government of Ras Al Khaimah (RAK). Comprising a network of hospitals, diagnostic centers, pharmacies, and wellness services, its flagship facility is the 65-bed RAK Hospital, which is managed in cooperation with Sonnenhof Swiss Health.<sup>100</sup>

### ***Aster DM Healthcare***

- Aster DM Healthcare is a Dubai-based healthcare company with 27 hospitals, 115 clinics, and 223 pharmacies in the Middle East and India.<sup>101</sup> In the U.A.E., there are eight hospitals under the high-end Medcare or midrange Aster brands.<sup>102</sup>
- In October 2022, Aster's Medcare Women & Children Hospital became the first U.A.E. healthcare facility to enter the metaverse.<sup>103</sup>

### ***Burjeel Holdings***

- Burjeel Holdings is an integrated healthcare services provider that acquired the healthcare brands and assets formerly associated with VPS Healthcare. It is a network of 39 hospitals and medical centers across the Middle East, Europe, and India. It operates hospitals and medical centers under the Burjeel, Medeor, LLH, Lifecare, and Tajmeel brands.
- In 2022, Abu Dhabi investor **International Holding Company (IHC)** acquired a 15% stake in Burjeel Holdings.<sup>104</sup>

### ***Emirates Hospitals Group***

- Emirates Hospitals Group hosts 26 facilities and over 1,500 medical professionals in facilities across the U.A.E. It is a subsidiary of KBBO Group, which filed for bankruptcy in 2021 following the scandal involving the CEO of NMC Healthcare, Mr. BR Shetty, which was also part of the KBBO Group.
- Emirates Hospitals Group was successfully refinanced in January 2022 with AED 150 million [\$41 million] from Fidera, an independent London-based investment fund.<sup>105</sup>

### ***International Modern Hospital***

- International Modern Hospital is the oldest private hospital in Dubai, established in 2005. Its fully renovated (in 2023) facility in Dubai hosts 117 beds, including 4 VIP suites, and specializes in women's and children's services, orthopedics, cardiology, general surgery, urology, gastroenterology, bariatric and plastic surgery, ENT, ophthalmology, dental, and neurosurgery.<sup>106</sup>

### ***King's College Hospital London Dubai***

- King's College Hospital, one of London's largest teaching hospitals, opened a Medical and Surgical Center in Abu Dhabi in November 2014. Then, in November of the next year, it signed an agreement with Al Tayer Group and Dubai Investments to build a \$200 million 100-bed branch of King's College Hospital in Dubai as well as three other King's College Hospital clinics. The first of these clinics, a Medical Center in Jumeirah, opened in September 2017.<sup>107</sup>
- In September 2018, King's College opened another medical facility in Dubai.<sup>108</sup> The late U.A.E. President Sheikh Zayed Al Nahyan once provided a donation to King's College Hospital to set up its specialist liver research center.<sup>109</sup>

### ***Mediclinic Middle East***

- Mediclinic Middle East is a branch of Mediclinic International, which consists of 74 hospitals, five sub-acute and specialized hospitals, 21-day care clinics, and 23 outpatient clinics worldwide.<sup>110</sup> In the U.A.E., it is hospitals with more than 950 inpatient beds as well as 28 clinics.<sup>111</sup>
- In September 2018, the group opened its seventh hospital in the U.A.E., Mediclinic Parkview Hospital, a 182-bed in-and outpatient facility in Dubai, which became the largest greenfield construction project by value ever undertaken by Mediclinic International across its entire international portfolio.<sup>112</sup>
- The current Mediclinic International operation in the U.A.E. is the result of the reverse takeover by Al Noor Hospitals Group of the Johannesburg-based Mediclinic International Limited.<sup>113</sup> At the time of this reverse takeover, Mediclinic had an extensive and growing U.A.E. presence. Meanwhile, Al Noor Hospitals Group was the largest private healthcare company in Abu Dhabi with seven facilities in Abu Dhabi city, one in the Western Region, and two in Al Ain.<sup>114</sup>

### ***NMC Group***

- Following this scandal and the company's exit from administration, the newly formed NMC under the new leadership of David Hadley, remains the largest integrated private healthcare platform in the U.A.E. It operates 11 hospitals and 54 clinics, and a specialty care center, employs 13,000 people, and serves over 5.5 million patients in the U.A.E. and Oman.<sup>115</sup>

- NMC Healthcare was a publicly listed company on the London Stock Exchange and part of the UK's exclusive FTSE 100 index until a fraud scandal broke in March 2020, and it was forced into administration.
- In 2022, many NMC companies were able to exit administration thanks to lenders, led by Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank, who agreed to exchange debt in the company for exit instruments under a new facility.
- In 2023, it filed a lawsuit against its former chief executive, Mr. BR Shetty.<sup>116</sup>

#### ***Saudi German Hospital***

- Saudi German Hospital was founded in 1988 in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia by the Batterjee family and has grown to become one of the largest hospital providers in the Middle East and North Africa region, with 18 medical facilities, over 3,000 beds total, and over 9,000 employees. Its location in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia operates in partnership with Mayo Clinic. In the U.A.E., it operates hospitals in the emirates of Dubai, Sharjah, and Ajman.<sup>117</sup>

#### ***Zulekha Healthcare Group***

- The Zulekha Healthcare Group established Zulekha Hospital in Sharjah in 1992, and it subsequently grew from a 30-bed facility to a 185-bed 290,000-square-foot hospital.<sup>118</sup> Since then, the Zulekha Healthcare Group has also established a 140-bed hospital in Dubai, a diagnostic center, three medical centers, and three pharmacies.<sup>119</sup>

## Private Sector Healthcare Partnerships with U.S. Institutions

- In 2018, Arabian Healthcare Group began a collaboration with **CommonSpirit Health**, a U.S.-based healthcare provider, to enhance the emirate's healthcare sector through training and education programs, digital innovation, and an expansion of RAK Hospital, which will triple its capacity to become a 200-bed facility by 2025.<sup>1</sup> It is a hub for health tourism and international patients and hosts an eye care center, a rehabilitation center, and three medical centers.<sup>1</sup>
- **Oracle Cerner and King's College Hospital London Dubai** announced a strategic collaboration to leverage Oracle Cloud Dubai Region in the hospital's operations in the first U.A.E.-based cloud deployment by Oracle Cerner in the region.
- **Mayo Clinic Laboratories and American Hospital Dubai** announced a strategic partnership aimed at improving advanced laboratory diagnostics in the Dubai region. Under the agreement, the two organizations began delivering laboratory testing through a collaboration based out of American Hospital Dubai in early 2021. Mayo Clinic Laboratories and American Hospital Dubai are working together to improve access to complex laboratory diagnostics for the region's providers.



مستشفى كينغز كوليدج لندن  
King's College Hospital London



## Medical Hubs

Free zones are becoming increasingly important sites for healthcare provision, as they offer many benefits to businesses, such as allowing for 100% foreign ownership of companies, full repatriation of profits, exemption from personal income taxes and corporate taxes, and exemption from customs duties for goods and services.

## Dubai Healthcare City

- Dubai Healthcare City (DHCC), which was launched in 2002, is a healthcare free zone. DHCC currently has over 195 clinical partners and 130 regional headquarters of global companies, and it hosts brand-name providers such as Moorfields Eye Hospital and Maghrebi Eye Hospital. It is also home to the Mohammed bin Rashid University of Medicine and Health Sciences, part of Dubai Health.<sup>121</sup>
  - DHCC's ecosystem offers a wide range of medical services with 481 registered facilities. As a part of the U.A.E.'s efforts to increase Emirati participation in the workforce, in December 2021, DHCC launched a tailored employment training program for Emirati Nationals called Masari.<sup>122</sup> As of 2024, DHCC has an operating workforce of 11,500.
- In a report published by DHCC during Arab Health 2024, the Dubai healthcare free zone reported a significant Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 16% between 2020 and 2024, marking DHCC as the emirate's major healthcare investment hub.<sup>123</sup>
  - DHCC highlighted the ongoing expansion of Phase 2, designed to complement the healthcare ecosystem with preventive care, wellness, and urban lifestyle. Phase 2 has attracted investments of \$272 million from 2019 to date and is estimated to encompass 22 million square feet. The development of Phase 2 corresponds with DHCC's commitment to expand its healthcare and residential facilities to meet the evolving needs of Dubai's growing population.<sup>124</sup>



## Sharjah Healthcare City

- In January 2017, His Highness Sheikh Sultan bin Mohammed Al Qasimi, Supreme Council Member and Ruler of Sharjah, approved the master plan for Sharjah Healthcare City (SHC).
- SHC is spread over an area of 2.5 million square meters and is conveniently located adjacent to the Sharjah International Airport and between the two main highways of the U.A.E., Sheikh Mohammed Bin Zayed Road and Emirates Road. It operates as a tax-free zone under the Sharjah Health Authority.<sup>125</sup>



## Jawaher Boston Medical District

- In May 2023, His Highness Sheikh Sultan bin Mohammed Al Qasimi, Supreme Council Member and Ruler of Sharjah, approved the joint Jawaher Boston Medical District project.
- This project is a partnership between BEEAH Group, a public-private environmental sustainability and waste management company founded in Sharjah in 2007, and Boston-based hospital institutions Mass General Brigham and Dana-Farber Cancer Institute.<sup>126</sup>
  - This medical district will be located on the Emirates Bypass Road next to the Sharjah Mosque and is poised to establish an advanced, integrated network of healthcare systems in the emirate featuring hospitals, laboratories, R&D centers, and more.<sup>127</sup>
  - Under the patronage and in the presence of H.H. Sheikh Dr. Sultan bin Mohammed Al Qasimi, Member of the Supreme Council and Ruler of Sharjah, and H.H. Sheikha Bodour bint Sultan Al Qasimi, Chairperson of the Sharjah Research, Technology and Innovation Park (SPARK), the Sharjah Next: Healthcare conference in October 2025 spotlighted the Jawaher Boston Medical District project and the future of healthcare in Sharjah and the

U.A.E. His Highness the Ruler of Sharjah received a briefing on the project from H.E. Khaled Al Huraimel, Group CEO and Vice Chairman of BEEAH, showcasing an architectural scale model that was unveiled during the event.

- In November of 2024, the Board of Directors of the Jawaher Boston Medical District was announced during its inaugural meeting held at BEEAH Headquarters and appointed the award-winning Renzo Piano Building Workshop (RPBW) as the architectural firm.

## C. Insurance

Over the last decade, the U.A.E. has moved toward mandating health insurance for all citizens and residents, greatly expanding the country's health insurance market. However, the large number of domestic and foreign players in this market has led to intense competition and limited profitability. Moreover, there are restrictions on the entry of new foreign companies into the market.

### Mandatory Coverage

In March 2024, H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, U.A.E. Vice President and Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai approved the establishment of a mandatory health insurance system that will make insurance mandatory for the remainder of the Emirates of the U.A.E. The new decision requires employers in all emirates to necessarily obtain health insurance coverage for their employees, both foreign and domestic.<sup>128</sup>

- The decision came into effect on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025, and the U.A.E. Cabinet has authorized the Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratization (MOHRE) to spread awareness initiatives regarding coverage and policies for this new decision.<sup>129</sup>

#### Abu Dhabi

- Abu Dhabi leads the way in implementing mandatory health insurance for citizens and residents.
- In 2005, Abu Dhabi issued Law No. 23, requiring all employers to provide health insurance to their employees and their employees' dependents.<sup>130</sup>
- In 2007, Abu Dhabi issued Resolution 83 directing the then-Health Authority - Abu Dhabi (now Department of Health – Abu Dhabi) to give comprehensive health coverage to all U.A.E. nationals living in that emirate at no cost through the "Thiqa" program.<sup>131</sup>



#### Dubai

- Dubai subsequently followed suit. In 2013, Dubai introduced Law No. 11, requiring employers to provide basic health insurance coverage for their employees and requiring sponsors to provide health insurance for unemployed individuals under their sponsorship.<sup>132</sup>
- This law was implemented in phases: first for companies with more than 1,000 employees, then for companies with more than 100 employees, and finally for all companies and sponsors.<sup>133</sup>
- The law fully came into effect in 2016.<sup>134</sup>

## Sharjah

- Sharjah gradually joined Abu Dhabi and Dubai in moving toward more expansive health insurance as well. The Sharjah government extended health insurance to all Sharjah citizens aged 55 and over in April 2015.<sup>135</sup>
  - In January 2020, it decided to extend the insurance coverage to all citizens of Sharjah.

## Daman's Market Importance

- A major player in the U.A.E. health insurance market is the National Health Insurance Company (Daman), which is the largest insurance payer in Abu Dhabi and the third largest in Dubai.<sup>136</sup>
- Established by Emiri Decree No. 39 of 2005, Daman is a part of PureHealth, which is, in turn, a part of ADQ.<sup>137</sup> It has 2.8 million members and a domestic network of more than 3,000 healthcare providers.<sup>138</sup>
- Daman exclusively manages the aforementioned “Thiqa” program for U.A.E. nationals in Abu Dhabi as well as the Abu Dhabi Basic Plan for low-income expatriates in that emirate.<sup>139</sup>
- In November 2024, Daman was named the best-perceived health insurance brand in the U.A.E., according to the U.A.E. Healthcare 2024 report by Brand Finance.<sup>140</sup>



## Thiqa

- In April 2017, in a move to preempt complications for enrollees already in long-term private care, U.A.E. President His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan waived the 20% co-payment for Thiqa cardholders when receiving treatment at private healthcare facilities.<sup>141</sup> Waiving the 20% co-payment for Thiqa cardholders also improved the viability of some private healthcare institutions and their long-term expansion plans.<sup>142</sup>
- In November 2020, Daman announced that U.A.E. nationals in Abu Dhabi must pay for elective private medical treatment in the other emirates. This followed the phasing out of all direct billing at hospitals in October 2020.
- In February of 2024, the Abu Dhabi Public Health Center (ADPHC), a part of the Department of Health- Abu Dhabi, announced that all Thiqa cardholders can now access IFHAS, a comprehensive health screening program, in over 150 healthcare facilities across Abu Dhabi including those affiliated with Abu Dhabi Health Services Company (SEHA), M42, NMC Healthcare, Mediclinic Middle East, and Burjeel Holdings.<sup>143</sup>
- Soon after, ADPHC announced that participation in the IFHAS program is now a requirement to maintain eligibility for full insurance benefits.
- The IFHAS program plays a crucial role in disease prevention and early detection of chronic conditions, including cardiovascular diseases, common cancers, oral and dental health issues, bone health, and mental health.<sup>144</sup>

## Heavy Competition

The U.A.E. health insurance market reflects the U.A.E. insurance market. It is generally overcrowded, limiting profitability. There are currently more than 60 players in the U.A.E. insurance market, split between local insurers and the subsidiaries of foreign insurers.<sup>145</sup>

Outside of the aforementioned Daman, three of the most prominent local insurers, both in general and in health insurance, are:

- **Orient Insurance Company/Allianz:** Orient Insurance Company, which began operations in 1982, is one of the leading insurance companies in the U.A.E. by market share. Based in Dubai, it is part of Al Futtaim Group, a major U.A.E. conglomerate. It provides both individual and group medical insurance.<sup>145</sup> Orient Insurance Company is also the regional partner of German multinational insurance and asset management giant Allianz.<sup>146</sup>
- **Abu Dhabi National Insurance Company (ADNIC)/MSH International:** ADNIC, which was founded in 1972, is a publicly listed composite insurance provider headquartered in Abu Dhabi and is also one of the largest insurance companies in the U.A.E. by assets.<sup>147</sup> It provides both individual medical insurance and group medical insurance in partnership with French company MSH International.<sup>148</sup> Mubadala became its largest shareholder after acquiring the stake of ADNIC held by the Abu Dhabi Investment Council.<sup>149</sup>
- **Oman Insurance Company/Bupa Global:** Oman Insurance Company (OIC), which is headquartered in Dubai, is one of the leading insurance companies in the U.A.E. and the broader MENA region. It provides both group health insurance and an individual international health insurance plan designed and internationally administered by British healthcare giant Bupa Global.<sup>150</sup>
- **MetLife:** MetLife is a leading global provider of insurance, annuities, and employee benefit programs, serving approximately 100 million customers in more than 40 countries across the world.
- **Cigna:** Cigna is a global health service company with 95 million customers around the world and more than 40,000 employees worldwide. Cigna has made a major push to expand its operations in the U.A.E. with its Cigna HealthGuard plan, approved by the Dubai Health Authority, for those residing in Dubai and the northern emirates.

#### **U.S. Insurance Companies in the U.A.E.**

- **MetLife:** MetLife, Inc., through its subsidiaries and affiliates, is one of the world's leading financial services companies, providing insurance, annuities, employee benefits, and asset management to help its individual and institutional customers navigate their changing world. Founded in 1868, MetLife has operations in more than 40 countries and holds leading market positions in the United States, Japan, Latin America, Asia, Europe, and the Middle East. MetLife is a pioneer of life insurance with a presence of nearly 65 years in the Gulf. Through its branches, MetLife offers life, accident, and health insurance along with retirement and savings products to individuals and corporations. In the U.A.E., MetLife has had operations since 1962 and today is a leading multinational life and medical insurance company across the country.<sup>203</sup>
  
- **Cigna:** In June 2017, Cigna opened an office at the Dubai International Financial Center (DIFC) to serve as its regional headquarters. Cigna has been growing in experience by entrenching itself in the region and adding local capabilities like its clinical team, culturally relevant resources, and an ever-expanding network of hospitals, clinics, and pharmacies. Prior to its acquisition of Zurich Insurance Middle East, Cigna already had an established presence via a local partner providing health insurance to U.A.E. residents for over 15 years.



## **D. Pharmaceuticals**

The U.A.E.'s pharmaceutical sector is rapidly growing, and the market is expected to expand 50% by 2029.<sup>151</sup> The key driver of the expansion are concerted efforts implemented through government programs. Other drivers for growth are the establishment of the HELM Cluster, population growth, geographic connectedness. After its establishment in September 2023, the Emirates Drug Establishment (EDE) replaced the Ministry of Health and Prevention (MOHAP) as the pharmaceutical and medical device regulator; however, many pharmaceutical regulations are still under the purview of MOHAP.

## Promoting Manufacturing

The U.A.E. has initiated new programs to promote domestic pharmaceutical manufacturing. Local pharmaceutical exports are approximately \$297 million in 2025.<sup>152</sup>

- This growth is in line with the ‘Operation 300billion’ Initiative aims to increase the industrial sector’s GDP contribution from AED 133 billion [\$36.2 billion] to AED 300 billion [\$81.7 billion] by 2031.
  - This initiative, launched in March 2021 under the Ministry of Industry and Advanced Technology, which is led by H.E. Dr. Sultan Al Jaber, focuses on eleven total industrial sectors, three of which are related to medical technology and pharmaceuticals.<sup>153</sup>
  - In December of 2024, the Ministry of Industry and Advanced Technology announced that the industrial sector’s contribution to the U.A.E.’s GDP exceeded AED 205 billion [\$55.8 billion].<sup>154</sup>
- In January 2023, Mubadala Investment Company and U.S.-based National Resilience, Inc. signed a deal to further advance the U.A.E.’s life sciences ecosystem through biopharmaceutical manufacturing.
  - Through a development agreement, Mubadala will establish a new manufacturing facility, in which Resilience will operate and manufacture biopharmaceutical-related products out of the U.A.E.
  - The range of therapeutics will be used to treat complex diseases such as cancer, infectious diseases, and inflammatory and autoimmune disorders.
  - The Abu Dhabi-based facility will be the first Goods Manufacturing Practice biopharmaceutical facility in the U.A.E., as well as the first of its kind in the region to manufacture essential life sciences products for advanced biologics.<sup>155</sup>
- Globalpharma, a subsidiary of Dubai Investments, is actively investing in Operation 300billion and the ‘Make it in the Emirates’ vision, a national strategy aimed at promoting domestic manufacturing, to support and grow domestic pharmaceutical manufacturing.
  - Globalpharma’s strategic focus includes attracting international collaborations and foreign direct investments with global pharmaceutical companies, such as long-time partner GSK.<sup>156</sup>
  - In February 2024, Globalpharma and Tabuk Pharmaceuticals signed a cooperation agreement aimed at enabling local manufacturing of several products by Tabuk Pharmaceuticals in the U.A.E. Following the agreement, Globalpharma will manufacture three pharmaceutical products, including cardiovascular medicines and analgesics.<sup>157</sup>

## Health, Endurance, Longevity, and Medicine Cluster (HELM) Cluster

- Abu Dhabi stakeholders are actively seeking to promote pharmaceutical manufacturing.
- During the BIO International Convention 2024, the Department of Health- Abu Dhabi, Abu Dhabi Investment Office, Etihad Airways, and AD Ports signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen Abu Dhabi’s position as a global pharmaceutical and life sciences distribution hub.
- The MoU aims to create attractive value propositions for pharmaceutical, biotechnology, and medical technology companies to establish operations in Abu Dhabi.<sup>158</sup>
- Launched during Abu Dhabi Global Health Week 2025, the **Health, Endurance, Longevity, and Medicine (HELM) Cluster** is a partnership between Abu Dhabi Department of Economic Development (ADDED), the Abu Dhabi Investment Office (ADIO), and the Department of Health Abu Dhabi (DOH).



- The HELM Cluster is a \$25.5 billion initiative aimed at strengthening Abu Dhabi's life sciences ecosystem by boosting pharmaceutical manufacturing, building an AI-driven life sciences ecosystem, attracting leading global healthcare companies, and driving breakthroughs in preventive care, treatment effectiveness, and longevity.<sup>159</sup>
- The HELM cluster is projected to contribute more than \$26 billion to Abu Dhabi's GDP and attract investments exceeding \$11.4 billion and aims to create 30,000 new jobs by 2045.<sup>160</sup>
- In October 2025, in collaboration with the EDE, DOH, and Hub71 launched Hub71+ Life Sciences, a new specialist ecosystem to accelerate the development and commercialization of health innovation across BioTech, MedTech, and digital health.<sup>161</sup>

### **Mubadala Bio**

- In May 2025, Mubadala Investment Company announced the launch of **Mubadala Bio**, a life sciences company committed to strengthening the life sciences sector in the U.A.E. and improving health outcomes for the U.A.E. and the world.
  - Mubadala Bio's portfolio focuses on key therapy areas that address some of the world's most pressing health needs, supporting the full continuum of care, from prevention and diagnosis to treatment, ongoing support, and complementary medicine.
  - Mubadala Bio's integrated portfolio includes 10 facilities spanning across Asia, Africa, and Europe (with 6 located within the Emirates), serving over 100 countries. Across these sites, the cumulative manufacturing capacity of its facilities exceeds 2.5 billion tablets and capsules, 120 million IVs and injectables annually, and spans 110,000 square meters - enabling the production and global distribution of more than 10,000 products.<sup>162</sup>
- In December 2025, Mubadala Bio announced the opening of a high-potency facility at its subsidiary, Bioventure Healthcare, and the launch of three essential oncology medicines, some of which are being locally produced for the first time as branded generics products.<sup>163</sup>
  - The announcement marks a major step forward in strengthening the U.A.E.'s pharmaceutical capabilities and ensuring continuous supply and access to essential treatments.



### **Pharmaceutical Intellectual Property**

Unlike the United States, the U.A.E. does not yet provide additional incentives for innovation in the form of extensions of the market exclusivity period for the broader use of existing drugs, such as for the treatment of pediatric patients or of orphan diseases (diseases for which drugs are undeveloped owing to limited potential for profitability). The U.A.E. also does not yet provide additional incentives for innovation in the form of longer market exclusivity periods for biologic drugs, which sometimes are more expensive to develop.

- The U.A.E. Ministry of Health and Prevention enhanced intellectual property (AI) protection of pharmaceutical products by issuing Decree 321 on September 21, 2020, providing effective protection against unfair commercial use and unauthorized disclosure or undisclosed test or other data generated to obtain marketing approval for pharmaceutical products.

- The eight-year data exclusivity period provided under Decree 321 is the longest in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and protects the innovative company's investments by temporarily preventing regulatory approvals of generic versions.
- In May 2021, the Office of the United States Trade Representative removed the U.A.E. from its Watch List in its Section 301 Report, an annual review of the global state of IP rights protection and enforcement.
  - This was largely due to the efforts of the Ministry of Health and Prevention to resolve U.S. concerns surrounding IP protection of pharmaceutical products and was supported by the issuance of Federal Law No. 11 of 2021 concerning the regulation and protection of Industrial Property Rights.

## Controlling Prices

The U.A.E. government focuses on controlling rising drug prices through pharmaceutical pricing legislation, while also seeking to encourage domestic pharmaceutical manufacturing and safeguard pharmaceutical IP.<sup>164</sup>

- In December 2025, **MOHAP has transferred key pharmaceutical and regulatory services to the Emirates Drug Establishment (EDE).**<sup>165</sup> The EDE now serves as the sole federal authority managing the entire product lifecycle from clinical trials to post-market surveillance.
  - Of the 44 core services have been transferred to the EDE including topics covering: **pricing and re-pricing of medical products; registration and renewal of manufacturers; export certificates; and quality testing and pharmacovigilance.**
- The U.A.E. is also shifting toward a formal **Health Technology Assessment (HTA) framework to drive value-based pricing.** The HTA process involves a two-step evaluation:
  - Clinical evaluation to determine an added benefit over an existing Standard of Care (SoC) prioritizing mortality, morbidity, and quality of life outcomes based on high-quality trials and local real-world evidence (RWE).
  - An economic analysis on Cost-Effectiveness Analysis (CEA) and Budget Impact Analysis (BIA).

## Julphar and U.A.E. Pharmaceutical Manufacturers

- Outside of Mubadala Bio, the U.A.E.'s domestic pharmaceutical manufacturing industry is headlined by Julphar Gulf Pharmaceutical Industries, which is the largest generic pharmaceutical manufacturer in the Middle East and North Africa.
  - Established in 1980 under the guidance of the former Emir of Ras Al Khaimah His Highness Sheikh Saqr bin Mohammed Al Qasimi, Julphar now operates 12 internationally certified manufacturing facilities globally. These factories collectively produce over one million boxes of medicines per day, with 80% produced for export.



The U.A.E. has several other domestic pharmaceutical manufacturers as well:

- **Neopharma:** Neopharma is one of Abu Dhabi's premier pharmaceutical manufacturing companies. Started in 2003, Neopharma has 10 manufacturing facilities across 3 continents and over 2,000 employees. In October 2018, the U.S. subsidiary of Neopharma acquired an antibiotic manufacturing facility and its related assets in Bristol, Tennessee, but this closed in 2020.<sup>166</sup>

- **Globalpharma:** Globalpharma, which is based in Dubai Investment Park, is a major U.A.E. pharmaceuticals manufacturer. Established in 1998, its manufacturing facility can produce up to 300 million tablets, 150 million capsules, and over 7 million liters of dry syrup and liquid each year.
- **Medpharma (member of Valeant):** Medpharma is one of the leading pharmaceutical branded generic companies in the U.A.E. In September 2014, it was acquired by Lebanon-based Integrated Pharma Solutions and Canada-based Valeant Pharmaceuticals.<sup>167</sup>
- **LIFEPharma:** Part of the aforementioned VPS Healthcare (now integrated into Burjeel Holdings), LIFEPharma has a facility at Jebel Ali Free Zone Area in Dubai that can produce 1 billion tablets, 300 million capsules, and 150 million liters of liquid per year.<sup>168</sup> In 2020, LIFEPharma signed a multitude of agreements with international firms, pushing the U.A.E.'s pharmaceutical exports into North American and European markets.<sup>169</sup>
- **Pharmax Pharmaceuticals:** Pharmax Pharmaceuticals is the first local company located in Dubai Science Park engaged in the development and commercialization of pharmaceuticals. It was established by one of the U.A.E.'s leading pharmaceutical and healthcare product distributors, Al Ittihad Drug Store (IDS).<sup>170</sup> Its facility in the U.A.E. can produce 250 million tablets and 85 million capsules a year, and it focuses on affordable generic medicines. In 2019, Pharmax was awarded its first Good Manufacturing Practice approval by the European Union, becoming one of the few manufacturing facilities in the U.A.E. to achieve this standard.<sup>171</sup>

## International Pharmaceutical Companies

As the U.A.E.'s domestic pharmaceutical manufacturing industry has grown, many international pharmaceutical companies have established a presence in the country. There are currently a dozen multinational pharmaceutical companies operating in the U.A.E., including Johnson & Johnson, MSD (known as "Merck" in the U.S.), Pfizer, AstraZeneca, GSK, Roche, Novartis, and Sanofi.

International pharmaceutical companies are attracted to the U.A.E. for a variety of reasons. In addition to its growing domestic market, the U.A.E. boasts a strategic location and sophisticated logistics infrastructure that make it an ideal hub to access growing regional markets in Africa, Asia, and the Middle East. The U.A.E. has also created business-friendly environments in which pharmaceutical companies can operate.

- Organon, Pfizer, Viatris, and Janssen EMEA (the pharmaceutical arm of Johnson & Johnson) have made the U.A.E. the site of their regional headquarters. Moreover, these companies are increasingly not just selling products in the U.A.E. but setting up in-country facilities for research, digital solutions, and advocacy to support the local ecosystem, as mentioned in the section about the Department of Health – Abu Dhabi.<sup>172</sup>

## Pharmaceutical Hubs

Several free zones have become hubs for the pharmaceutical industry.

- **Dubai Healthcare City:** His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, U.A.E. Vice-President and Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai, launched Dubai Healthcare City (DHCC) in 2002 intending to establish an internationally recognized location of choice for quality healthcare and an integrated center of excellence for clinical and wellness services, medical education, and research. It is a hub for pharmaceutical companies such as



Abbott, Allergan Middle East, AstraZeneca, Baxter, Boehringer Ingelheim, Eli Lilly, Gilead Sciences, Johnson & Johnson, Julphar, Merck Serono, Merck Sharp and Dohme (MSD), Novartis, Novo Nordisk, Organon, Sanofi, and Viatris.<sup>173</sup>

- **Dubai Science Park:** Dubai Science Park (DSP), which is part of the TECOM Group, is a science-focused business community, dedicated to supporting entrepreneurs, start-ups, SMEs, and MNEs. Since its inception in 2005, the community has grown to more than 350 companies, including Amgen, Bayer, Boston Scientific, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Fresenius Medical Care, Medtronic, Merck Serono, Pfizer, and Zimmer Biomet. In total, the community employs over 3,600 industry professionals.<sup>174</sup>
- **Jebel Ali Free Zone:** In the 34 years since its inception, Jebel Ali Free Zone (Jafza) has become a key contributor to Dubai's economy and a growth engine for trade and commerce in the wider MENA region. Jafza is a leading source of foreign direct investment (FDI) in the U.A.E. and has created a business environment that has helped drive forward economic diversification. As a part of its diversification efforts, Jafza has worked towards helping grow Dubai's healthcare and pharmaceutical industry. Currently, there are over 160 companies registered within the free zone from 38 countries, including leading industry players such as Johnson & Johnson, Colgate, Roche, Sanofi, GlaxoSmithKline, and Quest Vitamins.
- **Masdar City:** Masdar City was built in Abu Dhabi by Masdar, a subsidiary of Mubadala Investment Company, in 2006. Masdar City Free Zone is a hub within Masdar City and is recognized for fostering innovation and sustainability.<sup>175</sup> Masdar City Free Zone's life science cluster includes the region's first Bio-Bank, hosts over 50 biotechnology companies, and some of the most advanced research and development facilities promoting cutting-edge research in rare diseases, genomics, cell and gene therapy, and both pre-clinical and clinical trials.



## E. Medical Equipment

The U.A.E. has witnessed growth in the adoption of advanced medical devices. The medical device market in the country was projected to generate revenues of \$2.76 billion by the end of 2025.<sup>176</sup> Coupled with continued technological innovations and strategic investments, the U.A.E. medical device market is poised for continued expansion.

### Cardiovascular Devices

- Cardiovascular devices are a major segment of the U.A.E. medical device market, especially given the increasing incidence of cardiovascular disease due to the prevalence of a sedentary lifestyle and obesity among the local population.
- In the U.A.E., cardiology devices are expected to represent an approximate market volume of \$262.5 million in 2025.
- The cardiovascular device market in the U.A.E. encompasses a variety of devices for diagnostics and treating cardiovascular diseases, which remains a leading cause of mortality.
- This market is principally centered on interventional cardiology and cardiac rhythm management.<sup>177</sup>

Many key players in this segment also have significant U.A.E. operations.

- **Abbott:** Dubai serves as a regional headquarters for Abbott, which is one of the world's leading healthcare companies in medical devices, as well as nutrition, pharmaceuticals, and diagnostics.<sup>178</sup> Abbott's acquisition of St. Jude Medical created a combined company with best-in-class solutions across the areas of cardiovascular and neuromodulation.<sup>179</sup>
- **Medtronic:** Dubai is the home for Medtronic's headquarters for the Middle East & Africa, Central Asia & Turkey (MEACAT). These markets comprise 1,400 Medtronic professionals and produce approximately \$1 billion in revenue.<sup>180</sup> Medtronic is world-renowned for its wide array of cardiac and vascular products.<sup>181</sup>
- **Johnson & Johnson:** Dubai is the home of Johnson & Johnson Middle East FZ-LLC, which oversees the regional production of a broad range of products used primarily by healthcare professionals in the fields of cardiovascular disease, as well as orthopedics, neurovascular, surgery, vision care, diabetes care, infection prevention, diagnostics, sports medicine, and aesthetics.<sup>182</sup>

## Diagnostic Imaging Equipment

Diagnostic imaging equipment also comprises a large percentage of the U.A.E. medical device market. The diagnostic imaging equipment market is expected to reach \$167.41 million in 2025.<sup>183</sup>

Many key players in this segment also have significant U.A.E. operations.

- **GE Healthcare:** From its regional headquarters in Dubai, GE Healthcare provides medical technologies and services to meet the demand for increased access, enhanced quality, and more affordable healthcare around the world.
  - GE Healthcare's devices range from medical imaging, software & IT, patient monitoring, and diagnostics to drug discovery, biopharmaceutical manufacturing technologies, and performance improvement solutions.<sup>184</sup>
- **Siemens Healthineers:** Siemens Healthineers, which is the separately managed healthcare business of Siemens and is a leading provider of medical imaging equipment, bases its Middle East regional office in Dubai Healthcare City.<sup>185</sup>
  - PureHealth, part of ADQ, is the authorized distributor for some of the top brands in the Medical and Diagnostic Devices business, such as Siemens Healthineers.
- **Philips Healthcare:** Dubai serves as the Middle East headquarters for Philips Healthcare, which is also a global leader in health technology. This headquarters services 15 markets, including the U.A.E.<sup>186</sup>
- **Stryker:** With their regional headquarters based in Dubai's DIFC, Stryker develops advanced diagnostic imaging tools, including point-of-care CT systems and enhanced surgical visualization platforms, to improve image quality and clinical decision-making in operative and procedural settings.



## Local Manufacturing

The U.A.E. has begun to develop a nascent medical products industry, starting with products like medical consumables.

- Borouge signed a strategic cooperation agreement with **Mubadala Bio** in May of 2025. The partnership will explore the supply of polyolefin materials to enable local manufacturing of medical products to meet the demand for locally produced superior-quality medical products.<sup>187</sup>
- Abu Dhabi National Industrial Projects (ADNIP) partnered with NNE Pharmaplan to launch the Abu Dhabi Medical Devices Company, which manufactures Auto Disable syringes, Single Use syringes, Insulin syringes, and IV Cannula.<sup>188</sup>
- During the pandemic, Mubadala subsidiary Strata partnered with Honeywell International to set up a production line in Al Ain capable of producing over 30 million N95 masks per year, transforming the U.A.E. from a net importer to a net exporter of this critical personal protective equipment (PPE).



### U.A.E. Partnerships with U.S. Medical Equipment Companies

- **Abbott** established the Abbott Diabetes Academy. This Academy, which is located in Dubai Healthcare City, is the first dedicated training academy in the U.A.E. for healthcare professionals working with diabetes patients. With its mission to act as a center of excellence and education and training partner for the regional public and private healthcare and diabetes community, the Academy provides practical tools that can be applied by endocrinologists, diabetologists, and educators to improve the region's management of diabetes.<sup>254</sup>
- **GE Healthcare** brings the best of its scale and capabilities to serve as a strategic partner to public and private sector providers across the U.A.E. including the U.A.E. Ministry of Health and Prevention, Dubai Health Authority (DHA), and Abu Dhabi Health Services Company (SEHA).
- **Medtronic** signed a deal with the University of Sharjah in 2015 whereby Medtronic Academy collaborated with the University to educate regional physicians on Medtronic products and therapies as well as general cardiac topics.<sup>197</sup>



# Medtronic

## F. Information Technology

The U.A.E.'s Healthcare Information Technology (IT) market is set to grow swiftly in the coming years. This growth is driven by government initiatives around the digitization of electronic medical records. Additionally, the advancement of AI has created opportunities for healthcare providers to ease the work of doctors and nurses.

## Electronic Health Records and Health Information Exchanges

For the past decade, the U.A.E. has been gradually implementing electronic health record (EHR) and health information exchange (HIE) systems throughout the country that promise to help reduce duplication, medication errors, and the length of hospital stays; improve patient safety and outcomes; and inform more effective public health policies.

- The Department of Health - Abu Dhabi (DOH) launched **Malaffi** in January 2019 and became the **region's first health information exchange platform**.
  - Malaffi enables real-time exchange of patient health information between healthcare providers to improve healthcare quality and patient outcomes and connects more than 2,000 Abu Dhabi healthcare providers from both the public and the private sectors, offering healthcare services to more than 3 million people in Abu Dhabi.<sup>189</sup>
- The Dubai Health Authority has extended electronic health records systems to private facilities in Dubai as well through its **NABIDH (Network and Analysis Backbone for Integrated Dubai Health)** initiative launched in November 2020.
  - NABIDH has enabled the creation of a single unified medical record for each individual in Dubai by linking the information contained in all public and private healthcare facilities.
  - NABIDH has unified over 1,300 healthcare facilities in Dubai and unified over 9.47 million patient records, with 81% of healthcare professionals actively connected to the system.<sup>190</sup>
- In December 2021, MOHAP launched **Riayati**, a **national medical records database created to connect 3,000+ U.A.E. public and private sector healthcare providers to effectively share data in real-time throughout the country**.
  - Riayati was developed through collaboration across federal and emirate-level governments such as MOHAP, EHS, DOH Abu Dhabi, and DHA.<sup>191</sup>
  - The launch of Riayati made the U.A.E. the first country in the MENA region to put forth a digital national healthcare platform.
- Emirates Health Services (EHS) manages Wareed and other electronic and digital services for healthcare that were formerly under the umbrella of MOHAP.
  - EHS launched the **Smart Health Services** application to provide patients with a bundle of health services, including booking a medical appointment, requesting a medical report, home care, and viewing medical records in 2022.
  - U.S. companies such as **Oracle Cerner and Johnson & Johnson** work through **partnerships with EHS in their provision of digital health products and services**.



- During GITEX Global 2024, the **DOH launched Sahatna**, an integrated mobile app that enables users to manage appointment booking, teleconsultations, and access to health records and genomic reports.<sup>192</sup>
  - This transformative app enhances the patient healthcare experience in Abu Dhabi and aims to spur a nationwide behavior change for improved long-term health outcomes.



## AI in Healthcare

AI has been an area of growth within the digital healthcare sector and provides multiple applications for improving patient experience and has significant potential to scale up. Recent investments into the U.A.E.'s digital health strategy have led to growth in telemedicine, data analytics, and AI-driven diagnostics.<sup>193</sup> Technological advancements aim to streamline healthcare operations and improve healthcare delivery to support comprehensive and accessible healthcare solutions.

- The **U.A.E. National Strategy for Artificial Intelligence 2031** aims to establish the U.A.E. as a global leader in AI by 2031. This strategy focuses on creating a strong foundation for economic, educational, and governmental transformation through AI, with the aim of generating \$91.2 billion in economic growth.<sup>194</sup>
- The Department of Health – Abu Dhabi (DOH) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Mohamed bin Zayed University of Artificial Intelligence (MBZUAI) and Core42 in 2024 to launch the **global AI Healthcare Academy for the health workforce**.<sup>195</sup>
  - The partnership created a framework for advancing technology-driven and data-enabled healthcare systems in the Emirate. **The AI Healthcare Academy** will develop a globally trained AI workforce, enhancing diagnostic and operational efficiency, improving patient care, and optimizing healthcare processes worldwide.
- The DOH additionally unveiled the **Population Health Initiative (PHI) platform** during GITEX Global 2025 in partnership with Microsoft.<sup>196</sup>
  - **The PHI provides a unified, real-time view of population health**, enabling policymakers and healthcare professionals to identify risks early, predict emerging trends, and simulate the potential impact of interventions.<sup>197</sup>
  - The PHI platform continuously learns to deliver evidence-based strategies tailored to Abu Dhabi's demographic and health profile.
  - The framework aims to develop a true learning health system capable of continuously predicting, preventing and responding to public health challenges **driven by AI and advanced analytics**.
- The U.A.E. Ministry of Health and Prevention (MOHAP) launched the first **Centre of Excellence (COE) for Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the U.A.E. healthcare sector**. The primary objective of the COE for AI is to advance the digitalization of health data and integrate smart technologies to enhance healthcare capabilities and offerings
- The EHS **deployed 3M Fluency, an AI-powered speech recognition solution to ease the documentation demands of health records**.
  - 3M Fluency Direct accurately and securely captures spoken dictation, adding important notes directly to a patient's electronic medical records.<sup>198</sup>
  - Currently, all EHS hospitals and primary health centers, with over 1,800 of the system's physicians, are being trained to use 3M Fluency.

- In May 2024, M42 launched the next generation of its open-access generative AI Clinical Large Language Model (LLM), **Med42**.
  - **Med42 is an open-access generative AI tool designed to support healthcare professionals in patient care, research, and administration.**
  - Med42 has also developed a Global Life Sciences Platform, hosted on the U.A.E. cloud using Microsoft Azure Health Data services to provide an environment for clinical research and drug discovery.

## Genomics

As part of its broader vision to create a technologically advanced healthcare system powered by big data and artificial intelligence (AI), the U.A.E. is in the process of developing one of the world's largest and most diverse genomic databases.

- The **Emirati Genome Program**, spearheaded by M42, has already collected DNA samples from over 800,000 U.A.E. citizens and aims to expand participation to approximately 10 million individuals.
  - This initiative is a key component of the U.A.E.'s strategy to leverage genomic data for advancements in personalized medicine and healthcare innovation.<sup>199</sup>
- The **Abu Dhabi Biobank**, created in partnership between M42 and the DOH, is a centralized infrastructure for storing, managing, and providing ethical access to high-quality biospecimens that fuel discovery and innovation.
  - The Biobank integrates clinical, molecular, and digital data, to enable academia, biotech, and life science regulators and companies to collaborate efficiently and accelerate translational research and bring real-world insights closer to clinical impact.<sup>200</sup>



## U.S.-U.A.E. Electronic Health Record and Health Information Exchange Partnerships

- **Cleveland Clinic**, and G42 signed a partnership in 2025 to collaborate on driving AI-powered advancements in healthcare. As part of the collaboration, G42 and Cleveland Clinic will explore and implement transformative AI-driven healthcare initiatives that have the potential to redefine patient care, enhance medical innovation, and drive operational efficiencies.
- **Oracle** announced a partnership in May 2025 with **Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi** and **G42** to develop a AI-based healthcare delivery platform. This initiative aims to improve patient care and public health management by leveraging AI, nation-scale data analytics, and intelligent clinical applications to create secure, scalable, and accessible care models that positively impact people's health and longevity.



## Telemedicine

Telemedicine growth in the U.A.E. is driven by the country's strategic focus on digital health, innovation, and accessibility. Advancements in medical technology, AI predictive analytics, and genomic sequencing have all impacted the rapid growth of telemedicine. Growing demand for mental healthcare has also increased the demand for telehealth. Telehealth services have both increased efficiency and reduced the burden on in-person healthcare facilities in supporting mental health services.

- The adoption of telemedicine has grown increasingly popular, especially following the COVID-19 pandemic, with the telemedicine market valuation expected to reach \$1.2 billion by 2029.<sup>201</sup>
- Six telemedicine solutions were approved for use by the Telecommunications and Digital Government Regulatory Authority (TDRA) in April 2020: **Mind Mina Telemedicine**, **NextGenGP Telehealth**, **vSee**, **OKADOC**, **DOXY**, and **GetBEE-licensed telehealth**, all of which were supported on all U.A.E. mobile networks in coordination with the country's two telecommunications operators, **Etisalat** and **du**.
- In Abu Dhabi, providers like the **Abu Dhabi Telemedicine Centre** have been at the forefront of virtual consultations and diagnostic services.<sup>202</sup>
  - M42 operates and manages the Abu Dhabi Telemedicine Center, which offers over-the-phone medical consultations in both Arabic and English with medical professionals 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. All services are offered exclusively through Daman to Thiqa and Enhanced cardholders.<sup>203</sup>

## G. Education, Research, and Events

To meet its ever-increasing need for qualified medical professionals, the U.A.E. has sought to grow its medical education and training capacity. Leading U.S. hospitals are key partners in cultivating Emirati medical professionals and transferring knowledge.

### Education and Training

The U.A.E. is home to several medical education institutions, the most notable of which are:

- **United Arab Emirates University (UAEU):** Opened in 1984, UAEU's College of Medicine and Health Sciences takes pride in being the first and highest-ranked medical school in the U.A.E. It offers a four-year M.D. program, the pre-requisite for which is successful completion of its two-year premed program. It also offers several graduate programs including a Master of Public Health, a Master of Medical Sciences, and a Doctor of Pharmacy. Additionally, it offers PhDs in Biomedical Sciences and Public Health and Occupational Health.<sup>204</sup>
- **Mohammed Bin Rashid University of Medicine (MBRU):** Opened in 2014, Mohammed bin Rashid University of Medicine is located in the Mohammed bin Rashid Academic Medical Center in Dubai Healthcare City. MBRU offers bachelor's and master's degrees through its three colleges: the Hamdan Bin Mohammed College of Dental Medicine, the College of Medicine, and the College of Nursing and Midwifery.<sup>205</sup> It is now part of Dubai Health.
- **Khalifa University:** Founded in 2007, Khalifa University launched Abu Dhabi's first medical school in September 2018. The Khalifa University College of Medicine and Health Sciences offers a four-year Doctor of Medicine degree program modeled after the North American medical education system.<sup>206</sup>
- **The University of Sharjah:** Opened in 2006, the University of Sharjah's College of Medicine offers a Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) degree; a master's degree in Molecular Medicine; a master's degree in Leadership on Health Professions Education; and a Doctorate in Molecular Medicine.<sup>207</sup> The University of Sharjah also has Colleges of Dental Medicine, Pharmacy, and Health Sciences, the latter of which offers a BSc. in Nursing.<sup>208</sup> The University of Sharjah is notably home to the 325-bed University Hospital Sharjah.<sup>209</sup>
- **Higher Colleges of Technology:** The Higher Colleges of Technology's Health Sciences Division offers a broad range of Health Sciences bachelor's degree programs across its 17 campuses, including bachelor's degrees in emergency medical services, Health Information Management, Medical Imaging Science, Medical Laboratory Technology, Nursing, Pharmacy, Social Work, and Veterinary Science.<sup>210</sup>
- **Gulf Medical University:** Based in Ajman, this University, which is associated with the Thumbay Group, offers an MBBS degree as well as bachelor's degrees in biomedical sciences, Physiotherapy, Medical Laboratory Sciences, Medical Imaging Sciences, Anesthesia & Surgical Technology, and Nursing. It also offers Doctorate degrees in Dental Medicine and Pharmacy.<sup>211</sup>



- Gulf Medical University, in collaboration with the Thumbay Group, launched the **Thumbay College of Management and AI in Healthcare** in 2025.<sup>212</sup> The new college offers undergraduate and postgraduate programs for its students and aims to develop a domestic workforce trained in AI healthcare integration.
- **Ajman University:** Founded in 1988 as the first private university in the GCC, Ajman University offers degrees in the medical and health sciences in three of its nine colleges.<sup>213</sup>
- **RAK Medical & Health Sciences University:** Fully owned and managed by the government of Ras Al Khaimah, this institution claims to be the first comprehensive health science university in the U.A.E. It offers an MBBS degree as well as bachelor's degrees in Dental Surgery, Pharmacy, and the Science of Nursing. It also offers Master of Science Degrees in Pharmacy and Nursing.<sup>214</sup>
- **Fatima College of Health Sciences:** Established in 2006, this Abu Dhabi-based college began by offering a BSc. in Nursing through a program now operated in collaboration with Griffith University in Australia. It currently offers more than ten-degree programs at BSc. and Diploma levels in Health Sciences.<sup>215</sup> Notably, it has collaborated with Etihad Airways Medical Center to provide three students per year with an opportunity to pursue a career in nursing with the airline.<sup>216</sup>
- **Dubai Medical College for Girls:** This all-female institution offers an MBBS degree to women.<sup>217</sup>
- **Dubai Pharmacy College:** This all-female college provides Bachelor of Pharmacy and Master of Pharmacy degrees.<sup>218</sup>
- **Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland – Dubai:** Established in 2005, this institution offers Master of Science degrees in Healthcare Management as well as Quality & Safety in Healthcare Management.<sup>219</sup>



Prominent U.S. healthcare institutions support the education and training of Emirati healthcare professionals by hosting Emiratis at their institutions in the United States or conducting training in the U.A.E.

## U.S.-U.A.E. Education and Training Partnerships

- **The University of Pennsylvania's Perelman School of Medicine (Penn Medicine)** signed an Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the American University of Dubai (AUD) to establish the AUD School of Medicine in Dubai. The new partnership will see Penn Medicine and AUD collaborate in developing a curriculum for a Doctor of Medicine degree program that employs the best practices of U.S. medical education, tailored to the needs of the region.
- In June 2024, the **Department of Health – Abu Dhabi** and **Penn Medicine** announced a partnership to expand partnerships in education, research, and innovation programs. The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) will further enhance collaborative translational research development based on Penn's Institute for Translational Medicine and Therapeutics (ITMAT). In addition, the MoU seeks to explore the potential of launching two multi-year collaborative research programs.
- **Children's National Medical Center** provides four training positions to Emirati physicians during their clinical and trial rotations. Each year, it also provides work experience to a number of Emirati students from U.A.E. University, Higher Colleges of Technology, and Khalifa University.



## University Research

U.A.E. universities are increasingly conducting innovative medical research.

- **Sharjah University created a Research Institute of Medical & Health Sciences**, which seeks to help make the university a national and international leader in biomedical and health sciences. Its research focuses on experimental and system biology, experimental genetics, disease states experimental therapeutics, inflammatory diseases, and clinical epidemiology/health policy.<sup>221</sup>
- **NYU Abu Dhabi** created the Public Health Research Center (PHRC), which seeks to identify environmental and genetic determinants of health problems in Abu Dhabi and develop and test new public health interventions to promote wellness in the emirate.



## Private Sector Research

Private sector companies are increasingly conducting research in the U.A.E., using dedicated facilities such as those provided by **Masdar City** and **Dubai Science Park**.

- The **Masdar City Free Zone Life Sciences Cluster in Abu Dhabi** is a rapidly expanding hub for life sciences and biotechnology, supported by the region's most advanced R&D institutions, leading contract research organizations (CROs), and government-backed initiatives from the **Department of Health - Abu Dhabi** and the **Abu Dhabi Investment Office**.
- **Dubai Science Park** features world-class laboratory space, equipped with air exhaust and ventilation systems, acid-resistant draining, and pH neutralization systems amongst other technical features. As a result, the laboratories are home to a wide range of organizations conducting activities including research and product development, testing, diagnostics, manufacturing, and production.<sup>222</sup>
  - In February 2024, Dubai Science Park announced that it is adding 60% more offices, laboratories, and warehouses over the next few years. This expansion will subsequently lead to greater innovation in the life sciences sector.

## Research Centers

Several dedicated research centers have emerged in the country, with branches focusing on medical research.

- The **Technology Innovation Institute (TII)**, the applied research arm of Abu Dhabi's Advanced Technology Research Council (ATRC), established its **Biotechnology Research Center** to support and facilitate domestic research in the emerging fields of Biotechnology, such as bio-medicine, bio-robotics, and nanotechnology, environmental biotechnology, molecular biotechnology and genetics, and bioinformatics.<sup>223</sup>
- TII's researchers work alongside ASPIRE, the technology program development pillar of the ATRC, which follows a mandate to develop a research and development ecosystem in Abu Dhabi.<sup>224</sup>
- **The Emirati Genome Program** is a genomics and life sciences initiative combining population-scale genome sequencing, biobanking, AI-driven analytics, and translational research to enable precision medicine and drug discovery and is a joint collaboration between the **DOH** and **M42**.<sup>225</sup> Its biobank and multi-omics platforms position it as a global resource for genomic research.



### U.S.-U.A.E. Research Collaborations

- **Illumina**, a California-based biotechnology company, opened its Illumina Solutions Centre in Dubai in November 2022, a 9,100-square-foot laboratory bringing genomics technology and precision medicine to the U.A.E. Illumina strives to use the new center as a regional hub for research and training in diagnostic tests such as prenatal screenings and genomic tests for cancer. Illumina's new Solutions Centre will serve to gather representation of the region's genetic data and educate local scientists on genetic testing techniques and technologies, leading to improved precision medicine therapies and drug development.
- **New York University Abu Dhabi (NYU Abu Dhabi)** announced the launch of the “U.A.E. Healthy Future Study” in early 2017, which is a long-term study of 20,000 Emiratis to better understand the risk factors of obesity, diabetes, and heart disease. The study is being conducted in collaboration with SEHA, Zayed Military Hospital, U.A.E. University, Zayed University, Khalifa University, EBTIC, Healthpoint, Capital Health Screening Center, and Daman. Separately, in November 2018, the Emirates Scientists Council signed a strategic partnership agreement with NYU Abu Dhabi that grants researchers from various disciplines access to the university's advanced science laboratories and research centers to conduct ground-breaking studies.<sup>305</sup>



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### Exhibitions and Conferences

Over the last decade, the U.A.E. has become a regional hub for healthcare exhibitions and conferences.

- Every year, Dubai hosts **World Health Expo (WHX Dubai) formerly known as Arab Health**, the largest gathering of healthcare and trade professionals in the Middle East.
  - **Arab Health 2025** hosted over 3,800 exhibitors and attracted over 60,000 attendees from 183 countries, and generated \$1.81 billion worth of business.<sup>230</sup>
  - For more information about WHX Dubai, please visit [www.arabhealthonline.com](http://www.arabhealthonline.com). Kallman Worldwide is the official USA representative of Arab Health and organizer of the USA Partnership Pavilion since 1996.<sup>231</sup>
- In Abu Dhabi, the DOH launched **Future Health – A Global Initiative by Abu Dhabi (Future Health)** marking the transformation of **Abu Dhabi Global Health Week (ADGHW)** into a year-round **platform of international health collaboration, action and innovation.**
  - **Future Health** will unite leaders across policy, technology, research, philanthropy and investment to design, fund and scale solutions that shape a future where longer, healthier lives are a reality for all. The platform marks a shift beyond annual gatherings toward a continuous, connected ecosystem of ideas, investment and action, enabling sustained global collaboration and impact.<sup>232</sup>
  - Future Health will focus on four main themes: **Longevity and Precision Health, Health System Resilience and Sustainability, Digital Health and AI, and Investment in Life Sciences.**
  - **Future Health will also convene its annual flagship event, the Future Health Summit in Abu Dhabi, from 7-9 April 2026 at ADNEC Centre Abu Dhabi.**
  - For more information, please visit [www.adghw.com](http://www.adghw.com).
- The U.A.E. also hosts a variety of more specialized annual events including **DUPHAT**, the **largest pharmaceutical exhibition in the MENA region**, which, in January 2025, featured more than 1,300 companies from 95 countries and a record total attendance of 32,000 visitors; and **WHX Labs**, which is the **largest attended laboratory expo worldwide** with approximately 830 exhibitors and more than 25,000 attendees.<sup>233 234</sup> For more information about DUPHAT, please visit <https://duphat.ae/> and for more information about WHX Labs, please visit [www.medlabme.com](http://www.medlabme.com).
- Other opportunities to host conferences of all sizes, topics, and audiences across the healthcare and life sciences sector exist, especially for companies and institutions looking to forge research and thought leadership partnerships and connections in the U.A.E.

**WHX Dubai**  
Formerly Arab Health

**FUTURE  
HEALTH** | A GLOBAL  
INITIATIVE  
BY ABU DHABI

## H. Public Health

The U.A.E. has made a push to reduce the incidence of chronic diseases by adopting relevant legislation and launching public health campaigns, including around healthy ageing.

### Healthy Ageing

- In 2025 the **Ministry of Health and Prevention (MOHAP)** launched a comprehensive national plan under the theme “Your presence.... brings health and wellness” to support the health of the elderly to promote the concept of healthy ageing and strengthen family and community bonds with elderly.<sup>235</sup>
  - The campaign will bring governmental and societal efforts together to achieve a lasting impact contributing to building a cohesive, health-conscious society that reinforces the role

of individuals in development and makes the health of the elderly a key focus in the journey toward social welfare and quality of life.

- As part of the national plan, **MOHAP launched the National Framework for Healthy Ageing 2025–2031** developed in collaboration with key stakeholders.
  - Designed for individuals aged 60 and above, **the framework aims to promote healthy ageing by delivering comprehensive healthcare, social and psychological support, improving quality of life, and fostering active community participation, while safeguarding dignity and independence.**<sup>236</sup>
  - The framework is fully aligned with the World Health Organization's Global Strategy and Action Plan on Ageing and Health, as well as the U.A.E.'s Centennial 2071 plan.

## Cancer Screening

The U.A.E. government has made concerted efforts to promote early cancer detection through screening.

- Launched in 2025 by MOHAP, the **National Guideline for Lung Cancer Screening and Diagnosis** unified guideline defines eligibility, screening standards, and data processes to detect lung cancer early in high-risk groups (e.g., aged 50–80).<sup>237</sup>
- In November 2024, MOHAP signed a strategic agreement with AstraZeneca to enhance lung cancer early detection programs across the U.A.E. As part of the partnership, a digital lung health assessment platform will be launched, targeting high-risk groups.<sup>238</sup>
- Founded by Sheikha Jawaher bint Mohammed Al Qasimi, the high-profile "**Pink Caravan**" initiative has run every year since 2011 to **raise awareness about breast cancer early detection and screening.**<sup>239</sup> The caravan traveled 1,700 kilometers across the seven emirates with 490 riders and 700 volunteers, providing free medical tests and screenings to men and women.<sup>240</sup>
- Burjel Holdings launched **the 'Scan for Life'** initiative to provide complementary breast cancer screenings across the U.A.E.
  - The Scan for Life campaign aims to make breast cancer screening more accessible and encourages women to take advantage of free mammograms, emphasizing the importance of early detection.<sup>241</sup>

## Combating Obesity, Diabetes, and Cardiovascular Disease

In addition to its efforts to combat cancer and smoking, the U.A.E. has tried to fight growing rates of obesity and associated ailments through regulation and taxation of the food and beverage industry as well as public health campaigns.

- The **National U.A.E. Taskforce on Obesity** discussed developing a joint roadmap to steer efforts and find effective ways to address obesity, in line with the National Strategy for Wellbeing 2031 and the aspirations of the U.A.E. to become one of the best countries in the world in terms of quality of life.
  - The **Taskforce comprises representatives from MOHAP, the Dubai Health Authority, the Department of Health – Abu Dhabi, and the Abu Dhabi Public Health Centre.** It is mandated to combat obesity in children from 5 to 17 years, according to Emirati government directions, and based on the recommendations of the World Health Organization (WHO), which outlined six key elements to treat this disease.
- These elements are **healthy eating, weight management, pre-and post-conception care, healthy eating, and physical activity in early childhood, and healthy nutrition for school students.**
- In 2017, His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai and Chairman of the Executive Council of the Dubai Government, **launched the Dubai Fitness**

**Challenge, which challenged Dubai to be active for 30 minutes every day for 30 days.**<sup>242</sup> The Dubai Fitness Challenge is an ongoing initiative.

- In March 2024, the **Department of Health- Abu Dhabi (DOH)** signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Eli Lilly** and the World Obesity Federation to drive innovative solutions to obesity prevention and management.
  - The partnership aims to empower healthcare professionals to manage the economic burden of obesity to improve understanding, drive prevention and treatment solutions, and raise public awareness about managing obesity as a chronic disease.<sup>243</sup>

#### **U.S.-U.A.E. Fitness Partnerships**

- **U.A.E. Healthy Kidney 5K:** The U.A.E. Embassy in Washington, D.C. hosts an annual U.A.E. Healthy Kidney 5K, which benefits the National Kidney Foundation. In 2024 the Healthy Kidney 5k has moved to Miami, and in January 2026, the U.A.E. Healthy Kidney 5K will be held in Miami.<sup>328</sup>



## PART III: ENTERING THE MARKET

The U.A.E. healthcare market offers enormous opportunities for U.S. companies to expand their presence and forge meaningful partnerships. However, it also poses certain challenges. Fortunately, there is a wide range of resources that companies can draw on to help them seize opportunities and overcome challenges.

### A. Opportunities

- The U.A.E.'s increasing **population, demographic shifts, high prevalence of chronic diseases, wealth, ambitions to become a regional medical tourism hub, and broader economic diversification plans** are all driving the expansion of the country's healthcare market.
- Additionally, the U.A.E.'s embrace of the **transformative potential of AI**, as well as its desire to become a regional and global hub for the life sciences, have expanded opportunities for market entry.
- The U.A.E. is also an ideal **regional hub from which to provide medical goods and services**.
- The country is centrally located at the crossroads of Africa, Europe, and Asia, and it boasts advanced transportation and logistics infrastructure.
- The U.A.E.'s **Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreements (CEPAs)** enhance the country's role as a global trade gateway, enabling U.S. companies to use the U.A.E. as a strategic hub for efficient access to high-growth markets across the Middle East, Africa, and Asia. By reducing tariffs, streamlining customs procedures, and harmonizing trade standards, CEPAs lower operational barriers and support scalable regional and global distribution from a U.A.E. base.



#### Healthcare Providers

- The U.A.E. also provides attractive opportunities for U.S. companies in the field of **healthcare provision**, where there is a high demand for U.S. expertise, particularly in more specialized domains.
- U.S. healthcare providers could replicate institutions in the U.A.E. as **Cleveland Clinic** has done and **Mass General Brigham and Dana-Farber Cancer Institute** are working to do in Sharjah.
- Alternatively, U.S. healthcare providers can manage U.A.E. hospitals in the same fashion as **Johns Hopkins Medicine International** and **CommonSpirit Health**.

#### Pharmaceutical and Life sciences

- The U.A.E. also offers opportunities in the **pharmaceutical and life sciences sectors**. U.S. companies will not only find the U.A.E. a ripe **market for pharmaceutical exports**, but they will increasingly find it a suitable platform for the **manufacture of drugs, conduct clinical trials, research and development, and IP creation** in the country.
- The U.A.E.'s **national genomics initiatives** and the **Abu Dhabi Biobank** provide U.S. pharmaceutical companies with access to state-supported, high-quality population-scale genomic and clinical datasets that accelerate drug discovery and precision medicine research. Backed by strong public investment and regulatory support, these platforms reduce research risk, enable faster clinical insights, and support efficient localization of research and development activities within the U.A.E. market.

## Medical Technology

- U.S. companies will find in the U.A.E. a growing market for **medical and diagnostic equipment sales** with opportunities to partner to install and service their own medical devices, as have **GE Healthcare, Medtronic, Stryker, and Illumina**.
- U.S. companies will find clients who are eagerly pursuing the latest innovations in healthcare **information technology**, as **IBM** and **Oracle** can attest.

## AI and Digital Health

- The U.A.E.'s growing development in AI as a tool being used will continually integrate into the healthcare and life sciences sector.
- U.S. companies focused on applying **AI in diagnostic screening and early detection** will enjoy the most immediate opportunities for partnerships.<sup>246</sup>
- Additionally, as genomics research continues to grow in country, U.S. companies working on genomic screening markers associated with **cancer, metabolic** and **cardiac conditions** will be closely aligned with the U.A.E.'s near-term priorities.<sup>247</sup>
- The U.A.E. leverages advanced AI tools to analyze its national genomics programs and the Abu Dhabi Biobank, enabling rapid identification of **disease patterns, therapeutic targets, and patient stratification** opportunities for U.S. pharmaceutical companies. This state-supported integration of AI and genomics **enhances drug discovery efficiency, shortens development timelines, and strengthens the U.A.E.'s position as a data-driven hub for precision medicine and life sciences innovation**.

## Medical Professional Development

- The U.A.E. presents opportunities to meet an ever-increasing demand for medical professionals as well. U.S. doctors and nurses will **find beneficial employment opportunities in the U.A.E.**
- In addition, world-class medical institutions will find local counterparts that are eager to partner with them to **provide the best education and training** to future generations of local medical professionals, as **Children's National Medical Center** and **Children's Hospital of Philadelphia** have done.

The above is far from an exhaustive list of opportunities available for U.S. companies in the U.A.E. healthcare market, and less obvious opportunities exist as well. Regardless of the opportunity U.S. companies are pursuing, one of the **keys to success will be an on-the-ground commitment**. Fortunately, there are numerous business-friendly environments in which U.S. companies can establish themselves, including free zones like **Dubai Healthcare City, Dubai Science Park, and Masdar City**. The U.S.-U.A.E. Business Council released its new [Guide to Doing Business in the U.A.E.](#), published in partnership with U.S.-U.A.E. Business Council Founding Member and prominent global law firm **Morgan, Lewis, and Bockius**, which provides U.S. company executives with the essential information they need when considering operations in the U.A.E.

## B. Challenges

While there are abundant opportunities for U.S. businesses in the U.A.E. healthcare industry, these opportunities are somewhat limited by the size of the market.

- The U.A.E.'s relatively small population of 10 million people limits the size of local demand making it critical that large healthcare enterprises rely on the U.A.E.'s connections to the wider region or the U.A.E.'s booming medical tourism market.
- Limits to local demand are further exacerbated by the large number of domestic firms established in the market and the increase in international competitors entering the fray.
- Asian firms, mainly from China and South Korea, have invested heavily in the U.A.E., and China in particular is continuously looking for ways to expand.
- Another potential challenge for U.S. companies operating in the U.A.E. healthcare market is increasing price sensitivity. After bouts of global inflation and increasing healthcare costs, the U.A.E. government is taking firmer stances regarding controlling prices throughout the healthcare industry. Moreover, there have been efforts to achieve greater efficiencies and cost savings.
- Although regulators in the U.A.E. are available and communicative, getting consistent information on regulatory frameworks and policy updates can be a challenge for new small to medium sized enterprises new to the U.A.E. market.

## C. Resources

American companies that are looking to capture the myriad opportunities in the U.A.E. healthcare market and forge fruitful partnerships with local counterparts can draw on a variety of resources and services, both in the United States and U.A.E.

They can rely on the assistance of U.S. government institutions, located in both the U.A.E. and Washington, D.C.

### ***U.S. Government Contacts in the U.A.E.***

Senior Commercial Officer: Tanya Cole  
 U.S. Embassy in Abu Dhabi, Commercial Section  
 P.O. Box 4009, Abu Dhabi, U.A.E.  
 Tel: +971-2-414-2665  
 E-mail: [Tanya.Cole@trade.gov](mailto:Tanya.Cole@trade.gov)  
 Website: <https://www.trade.gov/knowledge-product/united-arab-emirates-market-overview?section-nav=2758>

Economic Officer: Bryn West  
 U.S. Embassy in Abu Dhabi, Commercial Section  
 P.O. Box 4009, Abu Dhabi, U.A.E.  
 Tel: +971-02-414-2230  
 E-mail: [westbc@state.gov](mailto:westbc@state.gov)  
 Website: <https://www.trade.gov/knowledge-product/united-arab-emirates-market-overview?section-nav=2758>

Healthcare Commercial Specialist in Dubai: Vandana Nair  
 U.S. Consulate General in Dubai  
 P.O. Box 121777, Dubai, U.A.E.  
 Tel: +971-4-309-4963  
 E-mail: [Vandana.nair@trade.gov](mailto:Vandana.nair@trade.gov)  
 Website: <https://www.trade.gov/knowledge-product/united-arab-emirates-market-overview?section-nav=2758>

### ***U.S. Government Contacts in Washington, D.C.***

U.A.E. Desk Officer: Sarah Karle  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
International Trade Administration  
14th St. & Constitution Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20230  
Tel: (202) 482-0879  
Email: [sarah.karle@trade.gov](mailto:sarah.karle@trade.gov)

In addition, U.S. companies can turn to U.A.E. government institutions in both the United States and the U.A.E.

### ***U.A.E. Government Contacts in the U.S.***

U.A.E. Consulate in New York  
535 5th Ave., 32nd Floor  
New York, N.Y. 10017  
Tel: (212) 419-7670  
Email: [nycon@mofa.gov.ae](mailto:nycon@mofa.gov.ae)

U.A.E. Consulate in Houston  
7505 South Main Street, Suite 510  
Houston, TX 77030  
Tel: (832) 956-6666  
Email: [houstoncon@mofa.gov.ae](mailto:houstoncon@mofa.gov.ae)

U.A.E. Consulate in Los Angeles  
1901 Ave of the Stars #350  
Los Angeles, CA 90067  
Tel: [\(310\) 551-6534](tel:(310)551-6534)  
Email: [LosAngelesCon@mofa.gov.ae](mailto:LosAngelesCon@mofa.gov.ae)

### ***U.A.E. Government Contacts in the U.A.E.***

Ministry of Health and Prevention  
P.O. Box 848, Abu Dhabi, U.A.E.  
Tel: +971-2-652-0590  
P.O. Box 1853, Dubai, U.A.E.  
Tel: +971-4-230-1000  
Website: [www.mohap.gov.ae](http://www.mohap.gov.ae)

Emirates Health Services  
DSO Digital Park Building A8  
Dubai, U.A.E.  
Tel: +971-4-665-0000  
Website: [www.ehs.gov.ae](http://www.ehs.gov.ae)

Department of Health – Abu Dhabi  
P.O. Box 5674, Abu Dhabi, U.A.E.  
Tel: +971-2-449-3333  
Website: [www.doh.gov.ae](http://www.doh.gov.ae)

Dubai Health Authority (DHA)  
Dubai Health Authority Building, Al Maktoum Bridge Street, Bur Dubai Area 4545, U.A.E.  
Tel: +971-800-342  
Email: [wasselsotak@dha.gov.ae](mailto:wasselsotak@dha.gov.ae)  
Website: [www.dha.gov.ae](http://www.dha.gov.ae)

Finally, U.S. companies can count on major U.S. trade associations and chambers of commerce and their counterparts in the U.A.E.

#### ***U.S. Trade Associations/Chambers of Commerce***

U.S.-U.A.E. Business Council  
2001 K Street, NW, Suite 201 North  
Washington, D.C. 20006  
Tel: +1 202 863 7285  
Email: [dgreenhalgh@usuaebusiness.org](mailto:dgreenhalgh@usuaebusiness.org)  
Website: [www.usuaebusiness.org](http://www.usuaebusiness.org)

#### ***U.A.E. Trade Associations/Chambers of Commerce***

Federation of U.A.E. Chambers of Commerce & Industry  
P.O. Box 3014, Abu Dhabi, U.A.E.  
Tel: +971-2-621-4144  
Email: [info@fcciuae.ae](mailto:info@fcciuae.ae)  
Website: [www.fcciuae.ae](http://www.fcciuae.ae)

Abu Dhabi Chamber of Commerce  
P.O. Box 662, Abu Dhabi, U.A.E.  
Tel: +971-2-621-4000  
Email: [contact.us@adcci.gov.ae](mailto:contact.us@adcci.gov.ae)  
Website: [www.abudhabichamber.ae](http://www.abudhabichamber.ae)

Dubai International Chamber  
P.O. Box 1457, Dubai, U.A.E.  
Tel: +971-4-228-0000  
Email: [customercare@dubaichamber.com](mailto:customercare@dubaichamber.com)  
Website: [www.dubaichamberinternational.com/en](http://www.dubaichamberinternational.com/en)

Sharjah Chamber of Commerce & Industry  
P.O. Box 580, Sharjah, U.A.E.  
Tel: +971-6-530-2222  
Email: [scci@sharjah.gov.ae](mailto:scci@sharjah.gov.ae)

Website: [www.sharjah.gov.ae](http://www.sharjah.gov.ae)

Ajman Chamber of Commerce & Industry  
P.O. Box 662, Ajman, U.A.E.  
Tel: +971-600-595-959  
Email: [info@ajmanchamber.ae](mailto:info@ajmanchamber.ae)  
Website: [www.ajmanchamber.ae](http://www.ajmanchamber.ae)

Fujairah Chamber of Commerce & Industry  
P.O. Box 738, Fujairah, U.A.E.  
Tel: +971-9-223-0000  
Email: [chamber@fujcci.ae](mailto:chamber@fujcci.ae)  
Website: [www.fujcci.ae](http://www.fujcci.ae)

Ras Al Khaimah Chamber of Commerce & Industry  
P.O. Box 87, Ras Al Khaimah, U.A.E.  
Tel: +971-7-207-0222  
Email: [info@rakchamber.ae](mailto:info@rakchamber.ae)  
Website: [www.rakchamber.ae](http://www.rakchamber.ae)

Umm Al Quwain Chamber of Commerce & Industry  
P.O. Box 436, Umm Al Quwain, U.A.E.  
Tel: +971-6-765-1111  
Email: [uaqcci1@eim.ae](mailto:uaqcci1@eim.ae)  
Website: <http://www.uaqchamber.ae/>

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<sup>2</sup> <https://u.ae/en/information-and-services/finance-and-investment/budget/federal-finance>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.globalbusinessoutlook.com/healthcare/uae-healthcare-industry-set-excel#:~:text=The%20UAE%20has%20given%20significant,emphasized%20growing%20its%20medical%20personnel>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.thenationalnews.com/uae/2022/01/23/dubai-population-to-surge-to-nearly-6m-in-20-years-amid-urban-transformation/>

<sup>5</sup> <https://idb.org/our-network/regions-and-members/middle-east-and-north-africa/members/united-arab-emirates/>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7462068/>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.imarcgroup.com/uae-medical-tourism-market>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.wam.ae/en/article/b4r4bsn-dubai-welcomes-more-than-691000-international>

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.kenresearch.com/uae-medical-tourism-market#players>

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<sup>15</sup> <https://wired.me/science/health/everything-we-know-about-smart-healthcare-technology-in-the-uae/>

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<sup>18</sup> [https://docs.prosperity.com/9516/7689/0426/United Arab Emirates 2023 Picountryprofile.pdf](https://docs.prosperity.com/9516/7689/0426/United_Arab_Emirates_2023_Picountryprofile.pdf)

<sup>19</sup> <https://www.kenresearch.com/uae-healthcare-staffing-market>

<sup>20</sup> <https://www.thenationalnews.com/uae/2021/10/31/frontline-workers-to-get-golden-visas-sheikh-mohamed-bin-zayed-says/>

<sup>21</sup> <https://u.ae/en/about-the-uae/strategies-initiatives-and-awards/strategies-plans-and-visions/health/national-strategy-for-nursing-and-midwifery>

<sup>22</sup> <https://www.khaleejtimes.com/lifestyle/health/uae-launches-first-nursing-residency-programmes>

<sup>23</sup> <https://www.wam.ae/en/article/hszrhgtyt-5000-new-healthcare-jobs-for-uae-nationals>

<sup>24</sup> <https://gulfnews.com/uae/health/abu-dhabis-healthcare-sector-surpasses-emiratisation-targets-with-1200-local-professionals-1.100645712>

<sup>25</sup> <https://www.clevelandclinicabudhabi.ae/en/institutes-and-specialties/medical-subspecialties/diabetes-mellitus>

<sup>26</sup> <https://www.cincinnatichildrens.org/news/release/2025/expanding-global-reach>

<sup>27</sup> <https://nmc.ae/en/hospitals/abu-dhabi/nmc-specialty-hospital-1>

<sup>28</sup> <https://www.newsweek.com/rankings/worlds-best-hospitals-2023/uae>

<sup>29</sup> <https://www.dpworld.com/news/releases/dp-world-foundation-donates-dh15-million-to-hamdan-bin-rashid-cancer-hospital/>

<sup>30</sup> <https://www.dpworld.com/news/releases/dp-world-foundation-donates-dh15-million-to-hamdan-bin-rashid-cancer-hospital/>

<sup>31</sup> <https://gulfnews.com/uae/dubai-healthcare-city-boosts-phase-2-expansion-plans-to-cater-to-growing-healthcare-needs-of-dubai-1.92919644>

<sup>32</sup> <https://emirateshospitals.ae/services/diabetes-center/>

<sup>33</sup> <https://www.skmca.ae/rashid-centre-for-diabetes-research/>

<sup>34</sup> <https://www.sksh.ae/about-us/>

<sup>35</sup> <https://dlp.dubai.gov.ae/Legislation%20Reference/2025/Law%20No.%20%285%29%20of%202025%20Concerning%20Public%20Health.pdf>

<sup>36</sup> [https://www.ede.gov.ae/ar/?utm\\_source=chatgpt.com](https://www.ede.gov.ae/ar/?utm_source=chatgpt.com)

<sup>37</sup> <https://www.wam.ae/en/details/1395303163635#:~:text=UAE%20has%20the%20highest%20healthcare,a%20portion%20by%20Alpen%20Capital.>

<sup>38</sup> <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/healthcare/biotech/healthcare/responsible-innovation-how-a-blueprint-for-collaborative-action-is-advancing-global-healthcare/articleshow/110275238.cms?from=mdr>

<sup>39</sup> <https://www.wam.ae/en/details/1395303182583>

<sup>40</sup> <https://www.thenationalnews.com/uae/government/mohammed-bin-rashid-launches-uae-centennial-plan-1.87067>

<sup>41</sup> <https://wetheuae.ae/en>

<sup>43</sup> <https://u.ae/en/about-the-uae/strategies-initiatives-and-awards/strategies-plans-and-visions/social-affairs/national-strategy-for-wellbeing-2031>

<sup>44</sup> <https://u.ae/en/about-the-uae/strategies-initiatives-and-awards/strategies-plans-and-visions/social-affairs/national-strategy-for-wellbeing-2031>

<sup>45</sup> <https://u.ae/en/about-the-uae/strategies-initiatives-and-awards/strategies-plans-and-visions/health/national-genome-strategy>

<sup>46</sup> <https://www.mediaoffice.abudhabi/en/topic/emirates-genome-council/>

<sup>47</sup> <https://www.trade.gov/country-commercial-guides/united-arab-emirates-healthcare-and-life-science>

<sup>48</sup> <https://www.ehs.gov.ae/en/about-us/innovation-strategy-2023-2026>

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<sup>50</sup> <https://gulfnews.com/uae/health/uae-newly-formed-emirates-drug-establishment-targets-security-of-medicines-in-first-meeting-1.100163706>

<sup>51</sup> <https://fastcompanyme.com/impact/what-will-it-take-for-the-middle-east-to-become-a-manufacturing-hub#:~:text=The%20country%20is%20eyeing%20to,further%20strengthens%20the%20nation's%20reputation.>

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<sup>53</sup> <https://thelawreporters.com/uae-introduces-new-law-to-regulate-medicines-pharmacies-and-medical-products/>

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<https://mohap.gov.ae/assets/55a96bee/%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B3%D9%8A%D8%A7%D8%B3%D8%A9%20%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%88%D8%B7%D9%86%D9%8A%D8%A9%20%D9%84%D8%AA%D8%B9%D8%B2%D9%8A%D8%B2%20%D8%A7%D9%94%D9%86%D9%85%D8%A7%D8%B7%20%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AD%D9%8A%D8%A7%D8%A9%20%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B5%D8%AD%D9%8A%D8%A9%20%D9%81%D9%8A%20%D8%AF%D9%88%D9%84%D8%A9%20%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A7%D9%95%D9%85%D8%A7%D8%B1%D8%A7%D8%AA%20%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85%D8%AA%D8%AD%D8%AF%D8%A9.pdf.aspx>

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