MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Cedars-Sinai

May 2024
OVERVIEW
Since its inception in 1902, Cedars-Sinai has evolved to become the largest nonprofit hospital in the western United States—one that's internationally renowned for the best patient care that modern medicine has to offer. With pioneering medical research achievements, education programs defining the future of healthcare and wide-ranging community benefit activities, Cedars-Sinai is setting new standards for quality and innovation in patient care.

Today, Cedars-Sinai is a $8 billion integrated health system serving more than 1 million people each year in over 250 locations throughout Los Angeles and Southern California, and with more than 4,500 physicians and nurses as well as 2,200 active research projects. What never changes is their commitment to be a blessing for those in need. Cedars-Sinai’s clinical and operational excellence goes far beyond rankings and honors. The organization takes a data-driven, evidence-based approach to continuously improve quality, safety and patient experience. Cedars-Sinai is one of only three hospitals in the U.S. that rank better than the national average in five medical conditions for 30-day mortality rates. Cedars-Sinai’s partners can be confident in their commitment to improving safety and quality of care on a continual basis. Their goal is for Cedars-Sinai to remain one of the top hospitals in the U.S. for excellence in patient care, research and medical education.

QUALITY OUTCOMES
The American Association of Medical Colleges (AAMC) Council of Teaching Hospitals and Health Systems (COTH) is a group of individual leaders who represent approximately 400 leading teaching hospitals and health systems in the U.S., including Cedars-Sinai. Membership in COTH is recognized throughout the world as a standard for excellence in patient care, research and medical education.

The U.S. government's Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) collects data on 30-day mortality rates for Medicare patients who receive care for five health conditions: heart attack, heart failure, pneumonia, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and stroke. Since CMS began tracking this data, the academic medical center’s mortality rates have remained among the lowest in the U.S. These outcomes are a direct reflection of Cedars-Sinai’s institutional excellence.

HONORS & RANKINGS
The measure of Cedars-Sinai’s success is reflected in patient satisfaction scores, increasing clinical performance initiatives, excellent medical outcomes, ongoing research and academic programs as well as designations and awards. The highlights of these rankings include:

Cedars-Sinai has been recognized as one of the best hospitals in the U.S. for the eighth year in a row in U.S. News & World Report’s "Best Hospitals 2023-24" Honor Roll.

Cedars-Sinai has received six consecutive Magnet recognitions for nursing excellence from the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC), making it Southern California’s longest-running Magnet-designated hospital.

Cedars-Sinai Medical Group and Cedars-Sinai Health Associates, independent physician associations, both ranked among the top 10 physician groups in Southern California by Integrated Health Care Associates (IHA), a California leadership group of health plans, physician groups and health systems.

Cedars-Sinai has won NRC Health’s Consumer Choice Award for the 20th year in a row for providing the highest-quality medical care in the Los Angeles region, based on a survey of area households.

As a global leader in healthcare, Cedars-Sinai offers a full range of services to patients from around the world. With passion, skill and integrity, Cedars-Sinai provides patients with access to excellence in healthcare—wherever they may be.

In total, Cedars-Sinai had 11 specialties ranked in the U.S. This means that Cedars-Sinai is among the top hospitals in the nation in those clinical areas (U.S. rankings are provided in parentheses):

Cardiology, Heart & Vascular Surgery - No. 2
Gastroenterology & GI Surgery - No. 2
Orthopedics - No. 2
Pulmonology & Lung Surgery - No. 2
Neurology & Neurosurgery - No. 5
Urology - No. 5
Diabetes & Endocrinology - No. 7, tied
Obstetrics & Gynecology - No. 7
Geriatrics - No. 8
Cancer - No. 14
Ear, Nose & Throat - No. 19
CEDARS-SINAI INTERNATIONAL

CEDARS-SINAI INTERNATIONAL is the global extension of Cedars-Sinai's mission, vision, and values, and is committed to the wellbeing of the global population. Cedars-Sinai provides cutting-edge, patient-centered care and engages in sustainable, impactful collaborations that raise the standard of healthcare around the world.

INTERNATIONAL PATIENT SERVICES

Cedars-Sinai's International Patient Services ensures a streamlined healthcare experience for individuals coming from around the world. Their distinguished medical professionals, specializing in various fields, craft personalized treatment plans and keep patients informed about their progress before, during and after treatment. Effective communication is prioritized, with multilingual support services fostering understanding and comfort. Additionally, their commitment extends beyond medical care, with expert coordination of travel logistics and accommodations. The program facilitates communication between Cedars-Sinai doctors and patients' doctors back home to keep everyone informed about the treatment and progress. The International Patient Services team assists in scheduling doctor appointments, medical procedures and follow-up care, streamlining the entire process. As patients embark on their visit to Cedars-Sinai, their dedicated team is ready to support them at every step of their healthcare journey, ensuring a seamless and world-class experience with attentive and excellent care along the entire continuum of care.

Growing numbers of patients around the world have come to rely on Cedars-Sinai as a destination for expert medical care. Now, with the opening of the Cedars-Sinai International Lounge and the launch of comprehensive concierge services for international patients, they can rest even easier knowing that Cedars-Sinai is equipped to meet the full range of their needs. The lounge occupies an expansive space on Cedars-Sinai's main campus in Los Angeles, California, and provides a place for patients and their companions to rest and relax before and between appointments. It offers a range of specialized services designed to enhance the overall experience for their global patients. This includes dedicated spaces for private patient communication, ensuring that their care coordinators and patient liaisons can connect with patients in a confidential setting. For those seeking financial guidance, their lounge provides access to a dedicated financial specialist who offers consultations for self-pay patients and facilitates financial transactions. Their concierge services are tailored to provide personalized assistance and support to patients and their families, and the lounge provides multiple areas of relaxation, a shared office, a communications room, a pantry and a prayer/meditation room.

Moreover, Cedars-Sinai understands the importance of remote healthcare. Their lounge is equipped with dedicated conference rooms that feature advanced video conferencing technology and secure communication systems for telehealth and remote consultations. Recognizing the significance of international delegations and visitors, the lounge offers a premium space to host and welcome such groups. Overall, the International Lounge ensures a comprehensive and supportive experience for their valued international patients.

GLOBAL COLLABORATIONS

Cedars-Sinai is home to a distinguished team of world-class experts who are setting the bar for medical care globally. Cedars-Sinai's firsthand experience in evidence-based practice, clinical excellence and patient-centered care will help partners design, develop and improve clinical programs, and, ultimately, create more value for patients and communities. Relying on the clinical and nonclinical excellence at Cedars-Sinai, Cedars-Sinai International can provide a full spectrum of advisory and hands-on services, helping partners achieve their strategic goals and thrive in today's ever-changing healthcare environment.

Advisory Services
Training & Education
Feasibility Studies & Strategic Planning
Hospital Design & Development
Clinical Program Development
Healthcare Leadership Development
Hospital Operations
Quality and Patient Safety
Service Excellence and Patient Experience
International Accreditation

Cedars-Sinai understands that each organization is unique and faces different challenges. Therefore, Cedars-Sinai International works closely with its partners, listens to their needs, formulates the solutions accordingly and collaboratively achieves long-term success.
Some key collaborations globally include:

**Strategic Collaborations: The Middle East**

**Preferred provider agreement with Abu Dhabi Department of Health, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates (U.A.E.)** – Cedars-Sinai has been selected as one of Abu Dhabi’s preferred providers in the U.S. The agreement will facilitate international patient referrals, allow patients from U.A.E. to benefit from Cedars-Sinai’s outstanding care, help enhance patient care and support a wide range of quality improvement projects.

**The View Hospital, Doha, Qatar** – The View Hospital is an affiliation between Elegancia Healthcare, a subsidiary of Estithmar Holding, and Cedars-Sinai. Cedars-Sinai provides education and guidance, bringing expertise in quality, safety, and personalized care for the development of The View Hospital. The new hospital opened on December 18, 2022, and includes 15 floors, which contain 240 patient beds and 40 clinics covering 16 different specialties.

**Strategic Collaborations: Asia**

**Qianhai Taikang International Hospital Development, Shenzhen, China** – Cedars-Sinai and Taikang Healthcare, one of China’s largest insurance and financial services institutions, signed a collaboration agreement on December 18, 2020, to develop a new, world-class hospital in Shenzhen, China. The hospital, which is a public-private partnership with the Qianhai central business district, will feature over 1,000 beds. Cedars-Sinai will provide education and guidance, bringing expertise in quality, safety and personalized care as the two institutions work toward a long-term collaboration. The collaboration with Cedars-Sinai also involves other stakeholders, such as the Qianhai Authority—the government entity managing the Qianhai district—and the Southern University of Science and Technology, a research university and medical school in Shenzhen.

**Tsinghua Medicine, Beijing, China** – Tsinghua Medicine is a newly developed integrated academic medical and healthcare system that is a part of Tsinghua University. Cedars-Sinai will provide various strategic guidance to Tsinghua Medicine.

**Eka Hospital, Indonesia** – Established in 2008, Eka Hospital is the fastest-growing healthcare company in Indonesia, treating 400,000 patients per year. One of Sinar Mas Group’s business pillars, the hospital delivers excellent value-driven, patient-centric healthcare. Cedars-Sinai will assist in Eka Hospital’s development of its emergency medicine and trauma care.

**Strategic Collaborations: Latin America**

**Hospital de los Valles (HDLV):** Founded in 2006 and located in Quito, Ecuador, HDLV is a prominent private, nonprofit hospital with 100 beds, eight operating rooms and 80 physician offices. It’s equipped with an imaging facility, laboratory, a blood bank, emergency department, trauma center and heliport. HDLV is affiliated with Universidad San Francisco de Quito, the leading medical school in Ecuador, and offers medical teaching and residency programs. In April 2023, Cedars-Sinai and HDLV entered into an advisory services agreement that will last two-and-half years. This strategic collaboration represents Cedars-Sinai’s first engagement in Latin America. The collaboration between the two hospitals is aimed to assist HDLV with obtaining Joint Commission International (JCI) accreditation as well as enhancing its clinical programs, telehealth services, and training and education programs.
ACADEMIC COLLABORATIONS

International training and education are core components of Cedars-Sinai International's global collaborations. Cedars-Sinai offers a comprehensive range of academic programs for international partners, including continuing medical education (CME) courses featuring over 50 ACCME accredited courses annually across multiple specialties. These include simulation courses customizable to specific needs covering leadership, team and advanced surgical training; a Healthcare Management Executive Training Program tailored to hospital executives; visiting observship programs allowing participants to observe medical or research practices; visiting scholar and scientist programs for collaborative research activities; and visiting medical student programs that offer clinical rotations and observships across various disciplines. These initiatives aim to provide up-to-date research, enhance skills and foster collaboration, ultimately contributing to improved patient outcomes and a well-rounded medical education for participants. Cedars-Sinai is focused on enabling their partners thrive in today's ever-changing healthcare environment.

While many Cedars-Sinai International engagements have educational components, they currently have three academic-focused collaborations:

**Khalifa University (Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates)** – Khalifa University is an internationally top-ranked research-intensive university. Cedars-Sinai has an agreement with Khalifa University to provide third- and fourth-year medical students access to short-term, hands-on clinical rotations of four to eight weeks in a variety of specialties at Cedars-Sinai. In fiscal year 2023, Cedars-Sinai hosted three fourth-year medical students from Khalifa University for a two-month observship and clinical rotation experience at Cedars Sinai's main campus in Los Angeles. The three students shared positive evaluations and feedback about the programs. Alanood advised new students to look for research opportunities from day one. Khadija complimented the teaching environment at Cedars and said, “Take advantage of the expertise of the physicians and their team and ask questions.” And Mariyam encouraged upcoming students to volunteer, if they have the time.

**Sheba Medical Center (Tel HaShomer, Israel)** – Sheba Medical Center is one of the largest, most comprehensive hospitals in the Middle East dedicated to innovative, personalized medical care. Through its Department of Surgery, Cedars-Sinai has a longstanding academic collaboration with Sheba Medical Center to exchange best practices and conduct collaborative research. There are numerous, fruitful research collaborations underway as well as a bi-directional resident exchange program ranging from three months to one year.

**Seoul National University Hospital (SNUH) (Seoul, South Korea)** – For the past 130 years, SNUH has been leading the advancement of medicine in South Korea and is at the forefront of improving the nation's healthcare. Cedars-Sinai and SNUH host an annual International Cancer Conference and launched a precision medicine research collaboration known as the Molecular Twin project in May 2023.

GLOBAL OFFICES

Cedars-Sinai International has been actively investing in and managing assets globally for decades. It currently operates offices in three locations—Los Angeles, Mexico City, Shanghai, and Singapore—each staffed with consultants. Working collaboratively with the main office in Los Angeles, the other two offices bring Cedars-Sinai’s high-quality medical services closer to their local communities and key populations.

The continuous refinement and expansion of Cedars-Sinai International’s office model is seen as an invaluable component to achieve the organization’s vision and goals. The team is poised to explore the opportunity to work with local organizations and industry leaders to establish Cedars-Sinai’s offices in other strategic locations.
LEADERSHIP

Dr. Heitham Hassoun is an accomplished executive, clinician and global healthcare leader. Currently, he serves as the Chief Executive for International at Cedars-Sinai in Los Angeles, California. In this role, he leads the institution’s international patient services as well as global strategy and operations. He joined Cedars Sinai in 2018 and previously served as global medical director for Johns Hopkins Medicine and was an associate professor in the Department of Surgery at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine between 2012-2018.

He is a multifaceted clinician and global healthcare leader with a wealth of experience in international patient services, global collaborations, health system development and academic medicine. Dr. Hassoun was instrumental in the creation of Johns Hopkins Aramco Healthcare, a joint venture between Saudi Aramco and Johns Hopkins Medicine, as well as several other institutional management and affiliation agreements throughout the Middle East and Asia. Currently, he aims to expand the global footprint of Cedars-Sinai, a leading U.S. academic medical center.

Dr. Hassoun maintains a clinical practice in vascular and endovascular surgery, and he continues to educate and research in a variety of topics related to global collaborative healthcare and academic medicine. He completed his fellowship training in vascular and endovascular surgery at Northwestern University in Chicago, his medical degree at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston and a bachelor of arts degree in natural sciences from Johns Hopkins University.

“As Cedars-Sinai continues to grow around the world, reach the top of healthcare rankings and find new ways to reach more patients, one thing remains steadfast—our commitment to providing the finest care available and exceeding our patients’ expectations, no matter where they are.” – Dr. Heitham Hassoun

TEAM

The Cedars-Sinai International team has depth of knowledge of different regions and cultures.

Its Patients Services team is committed to making the patient's visit to Los Angeles as easy and comfortable as possible. Making it feel more like home.

Its Global Services team leverages the clinical and non-clinical excellence at Cedars-Sinai to provide a full spectrum of advisory and hands-on services to partners globally.

Learn more about the team here.

CONTACT

If you have questions or want to refer a patient, please email the Cedars-Sinai International team at christin.ghobrial@cshs.org.

Follow Cedars-Sinai International on LinkedIn.

Learn more about Cedars-Sinai International on YouTube.

Visit Cedars-Sinai websites for International Patient Services and Global Collaborations.

International Patient Services
https://www.cedars-sinai.org/international-patients.html

Global Collaborations
https://www.cedars-sinai.org/global-collaborations.html