



Foreword

The healthcare industry in Saudi Arabia is experiencing an evolution associated mainly with one of the fastest growing rates of population in the world and a remarkable economic prosperity. This has been paralleled by a significant and steady improvement in the overall performance of the Saudi health sector secondary to the never-ending government support and the several quality programs and initiatives, at the forefront of which are the accreditation programs implemented by the Saudi Central Board for Accreditation of Healthcare Institutions (CBAHI), the national body responsible for setting the quality and patient safety standards and accreditation of all types of healthcare facilities working today in Saudi Arabia.

Healthcare accreditation is gaining more reputation as a proven system for enhancing the quality and safety of care provided to patients and their families. It also provides for a common language among healthcare professionals especially in a country like ours where dozens of nationalities are sometimes working in one hospital, each with a different educational and cultural background.

These benefits have encouraged most developed countries to establish their accreditation bodies, followed by many other less developed countries. Saudi Arabia has been among the first countries to take the initiative of establishing its own capabilities in the field of healthcare accreditation. This impetus resulted in the creation of CBAHI several years ago. Today, CBAHI is still committed to its original mission and is currently responsible for the assessment and accreditation of all the hospitals, primary healthcare centers, ambulatory healthcare centers, and medical laboratories across the country. It has become evident that CBAHI is an essential guarantor of the future of patient safety in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. CBAHI is backed by its cumulative experience and resources and before that, by the country's sincere and committed leadership towards fulfilling the healthcare needs of the Saudi citizens to the highest achievable quality levels.

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