



Preface

The Saudi Central Board for Accreditation of Healthcare Institutions (CBAHI) is proud to present this third edition of the National Hospital Standards. Over the last few years, the health sector in Saudi Arabia has witnessed a major advancement at all levels. One remarkable area was the great expansion in the number of hospitals and the complexity of health care services they provide to more than twenty eight million population scattered over more than two million square kilometers area. This comes along with a great advancement in the medical field around the globe, with more focus on the need for hospital environments that support performance measurement and continuous quality improvement. Here comes the rationale for national, evidence-based standards that would support acute care hospitals in Saudi Arabia in improving the quality and safety of patient care and treatment.

Since the official inception in the late 2005, accreditation by the "Central Board" was a voluntary program that showed a remarkable success over the years. Lately, this has changed into a national mandatory program that is intended to be linked with licensure in order to enhance its mission and encourage more participation of more than four hundred hospitals operating today across the country.

During the development of this current edition of the hospital standards, one of the most important challenges we faced was to develop standards that would apply to all acute care hospitals, considering the variation in the quality levels across the continuum of care as we move from small hospitals in the small peripheral cities and towns to the large tertiary medical centers in the major cities. Being departmental, detailed and prescriptive in design and nature, this third edition of the National Hospital Standards was built to be as relevant and applicable as possible once implemented in the relevant hospitals licensed to practice in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

As with the previous editions, the development of hospital standards aims to facilitate the process of hospital self-assessment against preset requirements and performance expectations, ensure patient and public safety, encourage the hospital leadership to measure the hospital performance through the use of measures and indicators, and put emphasis on the ever-lasting concept of continuous quality improvement. This should translate ultimately into a successful survey preparation and winning of accreditation.

Upon going through the manual, it provides important information about CBAHI, the eligibility for accreditation, the scheduling of accreditation surveys, the survey preparation, the on-site survey, and the accreditation decision rules. In the remaining part, one can find all the standards distributed over the twenty three chapters.

Our appreciation and gratitude goes to the committees, teams, and task forces that contributed to the development, compilation, design, review, revision, and production of this manual. We extend our appreciation to the healthcare professionals who were generous with their feedback and constructive comments and suggestions.

For more information on the hospital and other accreditation programs of CBAHI, as well as for all comments and suggestions for improvement, please contact us at cbahi@cbahi.gov.sa

Dr. Salem Al Wahabi

Director General

Saudi Central Board for Accreditation of Healthcare Institutions-CBAHI