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# Dubai's Health Sector is ripe for investment in quality care services

Dubai's health sector is poised to continue to grow with anticipated targeted investments in specialized services by the private sector.

**W**ith the launch of its 2017-2020 health investment strategy, the Dubai Health Authority aims to promote Dubai as a viable and competitive hub for need-based investment in healthcare. The strategy also aims to guide and support investors to build sustainable public-private partnership models in Dubai's healthcare sector, which offers significant opportunities for investors.

In recent years, Dubai's healthcare provider landscape has changed significantly, leading to an overcapacity for certain services. Some services and catchments have sufficient supply and some are crowded and pose a risk for overcapacity. There are gaps in a number of specialities and services.

Key areas of investment potential include innovations in models of primary care, centres of excellence in certain specialities, home-based care and rehabilitation services.

An ageing population, the rise of complex chronic conditions and emerging technological changes is changing the manner and type of care needed, creating opportunities over the next decade for companies that are quick to adapt to these changes.

For example, to provide patient-centred care with ongoing monitoring and regular follow-up from the comfort of a patient's home, we expect there will be significant growth in remote patient monitoring and coordinated care delivered through telehealth platforms.

In respect to traditional clinic-based services,

primary healthcare is a priority focus. Potential public-private partnerships could occur in preventive screening, early detection and regular follow-up care.

There is a huge opportunity to invest in chronic disease management and remote patient monitoring particularly as we aim to continue enhancing the specialities we offer through Dubai's primary healthcare centres.

A lot of the care that is being delivered in hospitals today will shift to an outpatient setting—leading to the growth of ambulatory care where many procedures will be done in a day care setting and home-based care.

Over the next few years, we can expect to see further streamlined care using the latest technology to start with primary healthcare and lead to home-based care.

Facilitating and supporting public-private partnerships will help improve Dubai's health ecosystem. We will be able to bring in private sector investment in strategic projects, which will also help reduce the upfront capital investment, avoid project delays, enable allocation of risks between the public and private sector, as well as reduce the operating costs across the life cycle of these assets, given the more efficient management of operations and maintenance of the facility.

Public-private partnerships are also beneficial to patients, as they give patients access to high quality clinical services and innovations in clinical services based on best-in-class international practices.

To sum up, there will be more of a higher demand for one-stop-shop clinics and medical centres for specialised services like orthopaedics and diabetes, and this is currently the trend in Dubai. The main driver of this change will be bringing a multi-disciplinary approach and deep clinical expertise to work on a particular disease or condition that improves and delivers better outcomes.

There is more to be done on how care delivered at specialised centres is integrated with primary care and home-based

healthcare, and we hope to see such care innovation taking place soon.

The Dubai Health Authority has clearly laid out the areas of focus over the next two to five years, and the Authority is keen on providing the dedicated investment promotion and facilitation efforts to support priority investments in Dubai.

We welcome well-established, high quality healthcare services providers in Australia to invest and partner to deliver world-class healthcare services in Dubai.

**DHA's investment focus for the next 2 to 3 years**

- Innovations in primary care
- Ambulatory care
- Urgent care clinics
- Mental Health
- Chronic Disease Management
- Tertiary Care for diabetes, cardiology and oncology
- Diagnostic Health and Remote Monitoring
- Rehabilitation and Physical Therapy
- Home-based care
- Long-term and extended care

**DHA's investment focus for the next 3 to 5 years**

- Prevention and Pharmacy beyond-the-pill
- Precision Medicine and Genetics
- Population Health Management
- Nursing Homes and Palliative Care

**Dr. Ibtisam Al Bastaki will talk about Dubai's experience in pursuing public-private partnerships to improve the design and delivery of care during Concurrent Session 1.7 on investor owned healthcare organisations at 4:15pm on Wednesday 10 October 2018 during day 1 of the World Hospital Congress.**

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