Ministry of Health Brochure

A4 folded in thirds

Cover [outer left]

Israel’s progressive Healthcare system

Success story

Ministry of Health logo

Column 2 [inner right]

**Background**

**The State of Israel’s Healthcare system was enacted in the National Health Insurance Law**

The National Health Insurance Law ensures that every Israeli citizen have health insurance coverage for life through the public health insurance system. The healthcare package that the law provides is compiled by the Ministry of Health, and the four health maintenance organizations (HMOs) are required to offer their services through communal health centers throughout the country, and through various sub-contracted service providers such as hospitals. Each citizen may choose to change HMOs at any time, for any reason: proximity to a private residence, doctor expertise, the nature of the service, etc. This competition amplifies the Israeli HMOs’ constant attempts at improvement. By law, citizens pay health insurance fees as part of their taxes, with the amount determined by their income. This is how Israel built one of the world’s strongest, most egalitarian, quality health systems.

The State of Israel’s Healthcare system constantly strives to match needs with changing realities, and update its services accordingly.

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[Graph]

Citizen – State – HMO – Hospital.

Column 3 [inner middle]

Structure of Israel’s Healthcare System

**Ministry of Health / Israeli Government**

The Ministry of Health serves as regulator and service provider, and it is the government body responsible for ensuring the population’s health. Israel has a formal, highly sophisticated process for prioritizing which new technologies it will adopt. The process takes into account technical information about costs and health benefits, as well as intuitions regarding the public’s preferences and aspirations.

The government uses regulation to promote access to care, quality of care, financial stability and equity. This is achieved mainly through regulation of the HMOs.

The healthcare package which the HMOs are required to provide through the insurance system is updated annually by Ministry of Health experts. The Ministry oversees the HMOs, hospitals, and private institutions, and funds each in proportion to the number and types of patients who choose to receive their services there.

**Health Maintenance Organizations**

There are four HMOs in Israel, who run medical centers in thousands of locations from the Dan region to Eilat. The HMOs run communal medical centers with family doctors, specialized physicians, and laboratory services. The State encourages specialized physicians to work in the HMOs by offering higher compensation than what is received by hospital doctors. The HMOs are also responsible for providing hospitalization and other related services, and they conduct negotiations with the hospitals about the provision of services for their clients. Thus, patients are guaranteed quality care at every stage, from the diagnosis all the way through hospital treatments. If a client is unsatisfied, he can easily switch to a competing HMO.

**Hospitals**

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Israel’s leading hospitals are all public. Public hospitals are owned either by the government, the HMOs, or not-for-profit organizations. Referrals for hospital treatment are given by the HMO, which is responsible for providing hospital services to its clients. The HMOs negotiate with the hospitals in order to ensure that their patients receive the best care for the best price. This competition forces the hospitals to constantly improve themselves and to provide the highest quality service to each and every patient.

The doctors at Israel’s hospitals are internationally renowned, and some of the most advanced research institutes are based out of them. The Ministry of Health conducts constant oversight on indexes of care quality in the hospitals.

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Every insured Israeli has access to full medical care from a family doctor, to X-ray services and even to complex surgery, all without paying any money out-of-pocket.

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**Graph of three overlapping circles:**

**The Government –** Raises money and funds the HMOs

**The HMOs –** Compete amongst themselves to provide medical services to citizens

**The Hospitals –** Compete over providing services to the HMOs, and monitored by the Ministry of Health

**The Patient [in center] –** Receives the best service possible

Column 4 [inner left]

Digital Health

The Healthcare system in Israel is one of the most advanced in the world. The Israeli Ministry of Health is advancing a national program to make the Healthcare system compatible with the future of medicine in the digital sphere.

Big Data – The Israeli Healthcare system has been computerized for many years, and Israeli health organizations have had access to computerized statistics of their patients for over twenty years now. Thanks to advanced Big Data tools, the HMOs and the Ministry of Health have constant access to an updated situation report of the Healthcare system and can provide more advanced medical services at lower costs. The information enables them to provide individually-tailored services to patients, and it reduces the inequality present in non-synchronized healthcare systems.

Challenge Tenders – When the State identifies a medical need among citizens that has yet to be properly addressed, it issues a tender and invites companies to put in bids for providing advanced solutions to the new need. The State puts out several tenders every year, with each one resulting in creative solutions to the challenges it aimed to meet.

Each Israeli citizen has a digital medical file which appears on their personal magnetic HMO membership card. Any doctor who treats the patient can see his entire medical history at the click of a button.

Column 5 [outer right]

[typographic column]

The Israeli Healthcare system is among the most advanced in the world. Out of forty-eight countries, it was ranked in fourth place in efficiency in 2013, and in 2014 it was ranked in seventh place among fifty-one countries. Last year, Israel’s Health system was ranked among the top ten leading systems in the world by Bloomberg.

“Israel’s efforts over the past decade have developed one of the most sophisticated programs to monitor the quality of care in primary care across OECD countries.”

OECD Health Care Quality Reviews – Israel, 2012

Israel is ranked 7th overall in the OECD for life expectancy (82.1 years); 3rd for men (80.3 years); 9th for women (83.9 years).

Israel has the 4th lowest mortality rate in the OECD with a 58% decline.

Israel spends 7.5% of its GDP on health, with the OECD average at 8.9%; America spends 16.4% and Germany, 11.9%.

Israel’s health spending has remained constant for the past twenty years

(2013) GDP

**“Israel has established one of the most enviable healthcare systems among OECD countries”**

**“While most OECD countries have been grappling with rapidly rising health costs, Israel has contained growth in health care costs…”**

**OECD Quality Review of Israel, 2012**

Column 6 [outer middle]

Israel was able to develop its effective, advanced Healthcare system thanks to thorough organizational information, advanced technology and creative problem-solving.

Every healthcare system the world over is faced with a great many challenges which they must find solutions to in the coming years. The State of Israel has partnered with many countries in order to reproduce its success and improve healthcare systems across the world.

**Logo**

Contact information