

The Healthcare System

Israeli citizens enjoy a universal health care system and participation in a medical insurance plan is compulsory.

Healthcare coverage is administered by a small number of Health Insurance Offices (Kupat Holim), who receive funding from the government.

All Israeli citizens are entitled to the same health care benefits package, regardless of which organization they are a member of, and treatment under this package is government-funded for all citizens regardless of their financial means.

Additional coverage for non-essential treatments can be arranged for a fee, which is generally shared between a citizen and his employer. Generally, healthcare in Israel is of high-quality and is delivered in an efficient and effective manner.

Partly as a result of this, at an overall 82 years, Israelis enjoy the fourth-longest life expectancy in the world as of 2012.

Emergency medical services in Israel are provided by the Magen David Adom (MDA) organization, which staffs approximately 1,200 emergency medical technicians, paramedics, and emergency physicians, and 10,000 volunteers.

Magen David Adom is supplemented in some areas by Hatzalah, an emergency ambulance service network serving Jewish communities worldwide, and ZAKA, a series of community emergency response teams staffed by Orthodox Jews, who in addition to providing medical services and evacuation, also aid in the identification of terrorism victims and gather spilled blood and body parts for burial.

The Palestine Red Crescent Society also provides services to Arab neighbourhoods in Jerusalem. It gained access to Jerusalem after signing a 2005 Memorandum of Understanding with Magen David Adom.

Israel medical tourism is a segment of the country's national tourism industry and a subset of global medical tourism. Already a prime destination for holiday travellers and religious pilgrims, Israel is now emerging as a popular medical travel destination. Medical procedures in Israel are a fraction of the American and European costs.

Israel is one of the world leaders in stem cell research, with the largest number of articles, patents and research studies per capita.

>> For Additional Reading:

OECD: Israel's healthcare system among the best
www.ipost.com/Health/Article.aspx?id=287535

Medical Tourism in Israel

www.medical-tourism.com/country/israel.html

Forbes

www.forbes.com/sites/rickungar/2012/07/30/whiplash-mitt-romney-lavishes-praise-on-israels-socialist-government-controlled-healthcare-system