

Medical News

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Health Insurance Compulsory for Expatriates

A workshop has been conducted in October to finalize the plan to make health insurance compulsory for expatriates. Experts focused on the country's preparations and tried to establish a timeframe for its implementation. Around 150 researchers, insurance industry executives and public health officials from Bahrain and the GCC took part in the workshop. Medical insurance is suggested to be made mandatory for foreigners in an effort to reduce government health spending, as well as ease the burden on public health facilities by involving the private sector in their treatment. Bahrain currently spends BD20 million a year on caring for sick expatriates.

The 10th International Congress of the Middle East African Council of Ophthalmology to be Held in Bahrain

Ophthalmologists from around the region will gather in Bahrain next year for the 10th International Congress of the Middle East African Council of Ophthalmology (MEACO). The congress will be held from March 26 to 30, under the patronage of The Prime Minister Sheikh Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa in collaboration with the ministry of health, the Bahrain Ophthalmological Association, American Academy of Ophthalmology, International Council of Ophthalmology and International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness. The congress is held every two years; it is the largest ophthalmic meeting in the region.

Global Experts to Attend Key Medical Forum

More than 100 delegates have already registered for the Fourth Regional Conference on Medical Journals in the Eastern Mediterranean Region, taking place in Bahrain this November. The event, at the Golden Tulip Hotel, is being organised by the Bahrain Medical Society (BMS) from November 5 to 7 under the patronage of Health Minister Dr Faisal Al Hamer.

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Free AMH Health Check

A free health check was offered at the American Mission Hospital (AMH) on Sunday 21st of September to mark World Heart Day. The theme of the event this year is "Know your Risk". People's personal risk of a heart attack was assessed and they were provided with a World Heart Federation guide.

Funds to Combat Breast Cancer in Bahrain

Bahrain's biggest women-only golf tournament is expected to raise record funds this year to help combat breast cancer and increase awareness. The Royal Golf Club is organizing the Think Pink Charity Golf Day on October 27 at His Majesty King Hamad's private golf course in Safriya. There will be places for up to 80 women golfers to participate. Last year, Think Pink raised BD34,000 through the event - BD4,000 from the actual tournament and BD30,000 from the gala dinner after the tournament. Proceeds went towards the Bahrain Cancer Society to raise breast cancer awareness within Bahrain, as well as funding free mammogram drives, medication and self-examination kits.

Project to Help Disabled

A pioneering technique to help children with severe disabilities has been introduced at a new centre in Bahrain. It involves intensive therapy "jump-start" developmental skills such as sitting, crawling, standing, reaching, grasping, head control and walking. Treatment includes putting children into a special suit, which gives them greater stability and stimulates the central nervous system and movement. It also involves equipment called the spider, which uses bungee cords to create movement otherwise not possible for the patient. The Social Development Ministry and the Economic Developmental Board (EDB) has set-up Steps Rehabilitation Centre, to provide this service. Steps is a branch of the US-based centre Therapies 4 Kids and deals with various neuro-muscular disabilities including autism, cerebral palsy (CP), stroke, epilepsy, down syndrome, hydrocephalus, spinal cord injury, polio, spina bifida and many others. The centre offers intensive rehabilitation using the suit-therapy method and universal exercise machines. Suit therapy involves a suit constructed of breathable, sturdy cotton, along with a series of elastic rubber cords utilized to align the body for proper balance. A nominal fee will be charged for each program.