

KKESH Achieves First HPH Membership in MENA Region



King Khalid Eye Specialist Hospital has become a member of the International Network of Health Promoting Hospitals and Health Services (HPH) this year 2008. The WHO Collaborating Centre for Health Promotion in Hospitals and Health Care in Copenhagen grants its Membership Certificate to hospitals and health centers for four-year intervals based on specific international standards set by HPH. This makes KKESH the first hospital in the Middle East and North Africa Region to receive this certificate.

Health Promotion is defined as, " The process of enabling people to increase control over and improve their health," (Ottawa Charter for Health Promotion), and is here understood to embrace health education, disease prevention, and rehabilitation services. It is also understood to include health enhancement by empowering patients, relatives and employees in the improvement of their health-related physical, mental and social well-being.

These standards are the result of series of workshops and consultations. They have been piloted in 36 hospitals in nine European countries and were assessed to be relevant and applicable. These standards are applied in most of Europe, United States, Australia, and South Africa under the supervision of HPH, established in Copenhagen in 2005.

The mission of the WHO Collaborating Centre for Health Promotion in Hospitals and Health Care is to support the development of hospitals and other health care institutions world-wide into healthy and health promoting settings. HPH Membership Certificate is granted after meeting the following dimensions and standards:

The Dimensions are:

1. Good quality treatment and care in a healthy health care setting, extending treatment of actual diseases towards disease prevention and promotion of positive health, strengthening patient orientation towards

empowering patients to take control over the factors the influence their health

2. Hospitals as healthy workplaces for their staff
3. Hospitals as strong partners for public health in their communities
4. Hospitals as healthy and sustainable organizations.

The Standards are:

- Standard 1 demands that a hospital has a written policy for health promotion. This policy must be implemented as part of the overall organization quality system and is aiming to improve health outcomes. It is stated that the policy is aimed at patients, relatives and staff.
- Standard 2 describes the organizations' obligation to ensure the assessment of the patients' needs for health promotion, disease prevention and rehabilitation.
- Standard 3 states that the organization must provide the patient with information on significant factors concerning their disease or health condition and health promotion interventions should be established in all patients' pathways.
- Standard 4 gives the management the responsibility to establish conditions for the development of the hospital as a healthy workplace.
- Standard 5 deals with continuity and cooperation, demanding a planned approach to collaboration with other health service sectors and institutions.

On his part, Dr. Abdul Elah bin Abbad bin Barakat Al Towerki, General Executive Director, stated that KKESH is proud of its membership of this international institution specialized in hospital evaluation. In addition, being granted this certificate is an acknowledgment of the advanced treatment and preventative services provided by KKESH and its healthy workplace. Dr. Al Towerki also has indicated that these continuous successes would not be possible without the generous support of the government of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz, His Crown Prince, Prince Sultan bin Abdulazi, His Highness Prince Salman Bin Abdulaziz, Governor of Riyadh, and the close supervision of His Excellency Dr. Hamad Al-Manea, the Minister of Health. In the end, Dr. Al Towerki hopes that KKESH would continue to be a living example of the health renaissance that our beloved Kingdom witnesses.