



# Visitor Guide to Medical Care in Qatar

This guide offers essential information for visitors to Qatar regarding the healthcare system and how to access medical treatment when necessary.



## 1 Understanding Healthcare in Qatar

The well-being of visitors to Qatar is a priority for the State of Qatar, whether you are here for tourism, to visit family, or for business. Therefore, visitors are required to cover the cost of medical treatment during their stay in Qatar, with some exceptions outlined below.

To ensure that all patients receive quality healthcare services, a Mandatory Visitor Health Insurance (MVHI) was introduced in February 2023. This insurance provides coverage for medical emergencies and accidents, saving you time, effort, and money if the need for care arises.

According to the Health Services Regulation Law in the State of Qatar, which came into effect in February 2023, any visitor who does not have health insurance covering their medical condition, whether existing or potential, will be required to bear the full cost of their treatment.

## 2 Healthcare Providers in Qatar

Qatar's public healthcare system is overseen by the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH). The two main government institutions responsible for providing healthcare services and managing public hospitals and clinics in Qatar are Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC) and the Primary Health Care Corporation (PHCC).

HMC is the primary provider of advanced healthcare services, offering specialised medical consultations. It operates 15 specialised hospitals and numerous facilities that provide comprehensive medical services, including emergency and trauma care, surgery, and specialised treatments.

PHCC manages primary health centres, offering services such as general consultations, vaccinations, and preventive care.

In addition to the government healthcare, there are numerous private medical facilities in Qatar. These can be accessed by visitors who have private insurance, depending on the level of coverage provided by their policy. It is important to note that not all types of visitor health insurance (purchased outside Qatar) are regulated by the MoPH, unlike those covered under the MVHI.



For emergencies or urgent medical care that requires attention before your departure from Qatar, please visit Ministry of Public Health - Registered Healthcare Providers to determine the most appropriate provider based on your symptoms or condition.



### 3 Who is Required to Have Insurance?

Under the new amendments, obtaining health insurance that covers emergencies and accidents has been mandatory since February 2023 for the following categories:



Visitors who require a prior entry visa before arriving in Qatar and visitors extending their stay.

Visitors eligible for a visa on-arrival are exempt from the requirement to obtain visitor insurance unless they wish to extend their stay in the country for more than 30 days from the date of entry.



## 4 Who is Not Required to Have Insurance?



Visitors eligible for a visa on arrival whose stay does not exceed 30 days.

Transit or temporary entry passengers.

Please note, while Qatar's MVHI is not mandatory for the above categories, should medical care be required, the visitor will be responsible for covering the full cost of treatment.

Visitors from these categories who have international health insurance that does not cover the State of Qatar can pay for their treatment expenses and later request reimbursement from their insurance provider, depending on their coverage level.

To avoid incurring healthcare costs at public facilities, the Ministry of Public Health advises visitors with on-arrival visas to obtain MVHI to ensure coverage for potential emergency and accident-related expenses.

Visitor insurance does not apply to citizens of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries.

## 5 How to Obtain MVHI

MVHI is available only through national insurance companies registered with the Ministry of Public Health in Qatar, as well as international insurance companies approved by the Ministry.

Health insurance can be obtained through the link provided below, which includes a list of registered insurance companies, approved international insurers, and the various available health insurance policy options.



## 6 Cost of MVHI

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The cost of the MVHI policy is QAR 50 per person per month.

Visitors may purchase additional coverage (top-ups) as offered by the insurance companies.

## 7 MVHI Policy Coverage

### Emergency Medical Treatment Only

- Coverage up to QAR 150,000 for the policy period within Qatar.

### Emergency Medical Assistance

- Sub-limit of QAR 35,000.
- Emergency ambulance transportation within Qatar as necessary.
- Medical evacuation to the visitor's country of residence.

### COVID-19 and Quarantine

- Sub-limit up to QAR 50,000.
- Treatment for COVID-19 positive cases.
- Quarantine expenses for COVID-19 positive cases, up to QAR 300 per day.

### Repatriation

- In the event of the visitor's death within Qatar, repatriation costs are covered up to QAR 10,000.

Please note that there are no pre-approvals, co-payments, or deductibles required for any covered services under the MVHI policy.

## 8 Non-Emergency Medical Treatment

Non-emergency treatment is not included in Qatar's MVHI. However, if you have additional insurance (Top-ups, which can be added to the MVHI from the approved companies listed above), your insurance policy may cover some or all of the treatment costs, depending on the level of coverage.

## 9 International Health Insurance Policies

Visitors with health insurance issued by an international company approved by the Ministry of Public Health can also use their policy for medical care in Qatar. A list of approved international insurance companies can be found at the same link provided above.

Visitors must ensure that their international insurance policy meets the following criteria:

The policy is valid for the full duration of the visitor's stay in Qatar.

The policy covers emergency and accident healthcare services up to QAR 150,000 without deductibles or co-payments.

The policy includes COVID-19 coverage up to QAR 50,000.

## 10 Contact Us

For further assistance, please contact the Ministry of Public Health Helpline:

- **16000** – Extension No. (1) Dedicated to health insurance
- **International Number:** (+974) 4406 9963





[www.moph.gov.qa](http://www.moph.gov.qa)



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