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### **Expat medical insurance news: GCC healthcare sector 'to grow'**

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High levels of growth are expected for the healthcare sector in the countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), reports indicate.

Healthcare related projects in Saudi Arabia are due to receive around US\$5 billion in government investment, figures from Dubai-based research firm Proleads indicate.

While delays and the global downturn have affected other projects in the region, healthcare has remained relatively buoyant, an expert claimed.

Simon Page, director of the life science division of IIR Middle East - the organisers behind the Arab Health Exhibition - said: "In spite of significant project delays in other non-infrastructure sectors, the pipeline of healthcare projects in the region remains remarkably robust, particularly for Saudi Arabia and the UAE."

Although healthcare services in these countries are growing, international medical insurance may still be advisable for expatriates.

Another report into health provision in the region from investment bank Alpen Capital stated that an increase in income and health insurance coverage will lead to further demand for healthcare services in the GCC countries.

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