

\$60bn allocated by GCC states for healthcare'

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The volume of investments allocated by the GCC states for health sector until 2015 is \$60 billion, Leonar Lerer, head of the organising committee of the Abu Dhabi- GCC Health and Development Investment Forum 2009, told **Emirates Business** during the forum.

Lerer said the GCC states spend five per cent of their GDP on the health sector, while the percentage ranges between eight and 15 per cent in industrial countries.

"There is agreement that health services in the GCC are not satisfactory. In addition, the small number of national residents compared to the number of expatriates pushes GCC health ministries to send th national residents to get treatment outside and that forms burden on their budgets," he said. Lerer said the source of the majority of investments in the Gulf's health sector is governments, not the private sector. "The private sector has a golden opportunity to increase its activity, after the application of health insurance system.

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