

# **Speciality Paediatric Hospital by 2010**

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DUBAI - A paediatric hospital offering organ transplant and reconstructive surgery, will be opened in Dubai by 2010.

The Shaikha Al Jalila Children Hospital (SAJCH) is a gift to the children of the UAE from His Highness Shaikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai.

The setting up of the hospital was first announced on December 2, the first birthday of Shaikha Al Jalila bint Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum and the 37<sup>th</sup> National Day of the UAE.

Giving details of the project on Sunday, Qadhi Saeed Al Murooshid, Director General of the Dubai Health Authority said the region was in need of a speciality paediatric hospital that could provide tertiary care services.

“Currently specialised services such as heart surgery, cancer treatment, liver and kidney transplant, congenital abnormalities, mental health problems and rehabilitation are not available to the children of the UAE,” he explained.

“Currently Al Wasl Hospital is handling the majority of the specialised pediatric cases, but there is still need for a speciality hospital,” he explained.

Following international guidelines for establishing tertiary centres in pediatric care, the hospital is designed with state-of-the-art equipment and medical facilities for treatment, diagnostics and training.

It will also include a centre for cardiac surgery, Oncology, Nephrology with a highly specialised dialysis centre, pediatric trauma and orthopedic centres, transplant unit, clinical neurosciences and behavioural medicine and, surgical departments and outpatient clinics.

At least 800-1,000 health workers are expected to be hired for the 200-bed hospital. “The beds will be increased to 500 by 2015,” added Al Murooshid.

The hospital is located in proximity to Al Wasl Hospital and Dubai Health Care City for convenient access and medical skill transfer. SAJCH is being built on 40,000 square feet of space with a budget of Dh740 million. According to statistics, currently 204,000 children reside in Dubai. The number is expected to reach 400,000 by 2020.

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