Kuwait Oil Company
Ahmadi Hospital

Patients Referral Abroad
A Roadmap between the Need and Reality

Presented by:
Dr. Ghassan Zein
M.D. Ph.D FRCS (Ophth.) UK
Fellow Harvard Medical School U.S.A
Fellow Royal College of Surgeons Edinburgh
Chief Clinical Officer (Ahmadi Hospital)
Content:

1. Definition of referral
2. Referral Process
3. Main Conditions referred abroad
4. Reasons for referral (Patient perspectives)
5. Reasons for referral (the Management Perspectives)
6. Main encountered problems
Definition of referral

- a person whose case has been referred to a specialist or professional group; where mainly treatment is not available locally or maybe available but a delay is anticipated due to long waiting list.
Main Conditions referred abroad

- Children born with defects
- Cancer patients
- Complicated Orthopedics cases (mainly Discs)
- Cardiac Surgeries
- Transplants
- Emergency Neurosurgical and Burns cases
- Others
Reasons for referral (patients perspectives)

- Treatment is better
- No trust in local Medical care institutions
- Holidays
- Socially more respected as the patient will appear as better looked after.
Reasons for referral (Management Perspectives)

- It is needed as an alternative to hire full time staff and operate specialized facility
- Commitment to offer the best medical services to employees and their families
Main encountered problems & Recommendations

- Referrals process (Doctors / Committee)
- Duration of stay in hospital and investigation protocols
- Follow up appointments
- Medicine Differences and long term treatment
- Follow up protocols
- Sick leaves on return
THANK YOU