Undersecretary of the Ministry of Health Salutation

I would like to welcome you all to this first edition of I-SEHA newsletter. Our aim is to share with you the progress of the I-SEHA project, which is considered as one of the key projects that Ministry of Health is currently undertaking. The strategic goal of this project goes beyond the boundaries of Ministry of Health and is considered as an initiative of the government to improve the delivery of quality healthcare services through implementing a comprehensive and integrated Health Information System. This will ensure an individual electronic medical record file for all citizens in the Kingdom, that will be accessible in all governmental Health Centers and hospitals, including King Fahad University Hospital.

We believe that this project will be essential for improving healthcare in the Kingdom through accurate and timely electronic patient information. That will be available at the fingertips of all healthcare professionals when they need it. The journey to our final goal will not be easy, there will be many challenges to address along the way. However, we will work with your help and support to make this project successful. Migrating from the current system to new ones are going to be challenging, cumbersome and in times painful, but we are sure that we all appreciate the importance of having an accurate patient information that will enable us to deliver better healthcare to all. This can only be achieved through the implementation of a fully integrated and resilient system.

I-SHRA project team is working hard to achieve one of the major goals of Bahrain Health Authority to 100% Electronic Healthcare Delivery to all.

Finally, I would like to launch a message of optimism to the thousands of professionals in the Bahraini public health system, encouraging them to join this collective initiative and showing recognition for their unswerving dedication and effort towards our final goal of "Informed Health Care" through the implementation of I-SEHA project.

Dr. Ayshe Bawas, Undersecretary Ministry of Health

The deployment of electronic information systems in health centers is a reality

During these days, the activity at all health centers in Bahrain has been hectic. And there is no other reason than the computerization of information systems. Every week two new Health Centers in the country were being I-SEHA electronic health record modules. Citizens standing health centers in which I-SEHA has been deployed would have noticed multiple changes and improvements. To begin with, all medical records are electronic which means faster and better clinical assessment and will facilitate the check of medical records from any center. The scheduling and appointment system is also available in all health centers and it has also contributed to gain agility in the patient management.

However, this is not the end of the deployment since it is expected to implement further improvements of the system during the second semester which will include, among others, the computerization of specialized clinics (mother-and-child, diabetes…), pharmacy and laboratory.

ENT Outpatient Department, first area in SMC's Hospital to adopt Electronic Health Record

On March 21st, Electronic Health Record Module was deployed in ENT Service (Bahrain Medical Complex) becoming the first Hospital service to use I-SEHA. ENT was selected as a pilot to test the functions regarding the customized visit sheet. After that, ENT is being extended to all All Fallah building services including Dental, Ophthalmology and Opticians as a second step towards the full deployment to all clinics in Bahrain Medical Complex. The system will not reach full capacity until QOC is deployed in all services and areas including pharmacy and laboratory. Moreover, now it is possible for physicians to work with I-SEHA system for small sheets, medical orders, results visualization or the working list and other functionalities.

Better accessibility, quality of care and safety

Dr. Haifa Al-Majed, Assistant Undersecretary for Training and Planning

The benefits of a project such as I-SEHA can be analyzed from multiple perspectives. Obviously it entails a qualitative leap for Bahrain Health System which will place it at the same level as the most advanced systems in the world. But in these few lines I would like to highlight some benefits and use for the people of Bahrain, better accessibility, quality and safety.

Accessibility because everybody will access more easily and quickly to the system through internet, and enjoy a faster path through the flow of primary and specialized care. "Quickly" because accessing the medical history of a patient regardless of their location will allow professionals to take better decisions in terms of diagnosis and treatment. And naturally because the computerization of patient management system will help in getting a better insight into electronic health record, lab result, radiology, pharmacy among others, will definitely reinforce patient safety.

In short, I-SEHA is a project that positively affects elements of the health system which will improve people data.

I-SEHA was warmly welcomed at Arab Health 2013

I-SEHA was present in Arab Health Exhibition and Congress, the Middle East largest international health exhibition, that took place from 28-31 January 2013 at the Dubai International Convention & Exhibition Centre. The Bahrain health information project was well received by all delegates who had the chance to approach the information booth sponsored by I-SHRA. In total, more than 7,000 delegates from 53 countries attended the Arab Health Exhibition.