SPS launches several new products from Carestream Health

Carestream Health, formerly known as Kodak Health Group, is celebrating its first anniversary as an independent company by focusing on international growth and introducing a spate of more than 25 new digital products and services.

Samir Photographic Supplies (SPS), the KSA partner of Carestream Health will be a part of this celebration as it introduces some of healthcare industry’s latest innovations in the Kingdom.

Carestream Health has earned the trust of thousands of organizations and medical centers across the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Philips and the Specialized Academy for Medical Training collaborate

Philips Electronics and the Specialized Academy for Medical Training (SAMT) announced, that they will work together to provide medical education and training programs for young Saudi high school graduates and staff in hospitals and medical centers across the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Carestream Health’s customized, scalable solutions-including CARESTREAM RIS/PACS, Information Management Solutions, computed radiography, digital radiography and services-continually integrate images and patient information for processing, diagnosis, sharing and storing.

Carestream Health also holds the No. 1 global market position for medical films. The company’s Medical Films & Printing Solutions business provides market-leading x-ray and mammography film and laser imagers for printing patient medical images.

The Dental Systems group continues expanding its global leadership as a premier provider of advanced dental imaging systems and practice management solutions. Another key business of the Molecular Imaging Systems group develops digital gait imaging systems, imaging agents, film and accessories for the life science research and drug discovery markets.

Medical check-ups not high on UAE residents’ list of priorities

A person should aim to be healthy, wealthy and wise—but is it followed in that particular order?

Healthcare may be taking a back seat to one’s expenses, as lower income earners are fighting rising costs of daily expenses. It was recently announced that the cost of medicines will rise this October, adding a further burden to residents’ pockets.

In a recent Gulf News poll, 58 per cent of respondents said they would get their medicines from abroad, 26 per cent said they would opt to buy a cheaper brand of medicine, while the remaining 16 per cent said they were not affected by the price change.

Egyptian Magdi Ali Esmail, a court administrator, 50, said: “With the substantial rise in living expenses, a regular medical check-up is perhaps the last thing on the minds of most expatriates, especially those with low incomes. The most important thing is the health of the kids; as long as they are fine and we can get them the right medical treatment when they get sick then me and my wife will be satisfied.”

“I think making it compulsory is unnecessary because some expatriates will undergo medical check-ups in their own countries as they have more trust in their own doctors and the cost will be much more affordable.”

Kinan Barsoudi, Syria, Group Sales Manager, 35, only goes for a general check-up if he feels sick, or every six months for a dental appointment.

“Medical check-ups shouldn’t be mandatory. You cannot control people’s freedom, and they should be able to go to a hospital of their own free will. Public hospitals and authorities, however, are advancing and the standard of medicine and technology used across the UAE far exceeds the USA in a lot of ways. Facilities in hospitals are expensive, but everyone is covered.”

Sania Shakshi, an independent account manager from Pakistan, 57, said: “I get a check-up once every three months and I think it should be compulsory for everyone to have one regularly. However, it should be covered by the employers, even the administration so that people will be encouraged to get a check-up. Hospitals offer a substantial discount for those who get a check-up regularly, but it is still difficult to see the same standard of services and hygiene at private clinics.”

UN report says 35.2 million people living with HIV

In 2007, an estimated 2.5 million people were newly infected, down from 5.2 million in 1998, while the annual number of AIDS deaths has declined from 3.9 million in 2001 to 2.1 million in 2007. Antiretroviral coverage remains low, with only 5.3 million people in low- and middle-income countries.

The Red Cross and Crescent (IFRC) has warned that despite these efforts, the AIDS epidemic should be classified as a disaster in some countries. Much of the money spent on AIDS is not reaching those in need, IFRC officials told the BBC in London.

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Hospital, because he fears being attacked en route to his hometown, an insurgent stronghold north of Baghdad. He refused to give his name for publication because he still fears being targeted.

Some 8,000 physicians, most of them specialists, have abandoned jobs at government health centers since the U.S.-led invasion in 2003, most seeking refuge abroad and a few hundred heading to the relative safety of Iraq's Kurdish region. Many ran from a violent campaign by extremists and crime gangs that targeted Iraq's elite. Their departure has further crippled a healthcare system plagued by corruption, mismanagement and a lack of equipment and drugs.

Only four of 10 elevators work at the 17-story Surgical Hospital, and patients wait a month for root canal treatment at a Baghdad dental hospital because surgeons lack electricity and anesthetics.

Health Minister Dr. Salih al-Hasnawi said getting doctors back is key to turning the situation around. Al-Hasnawi has floated the idea of turning Baghdad's Medical City, a five-hospital complex near the Tigris River, into a safety zone for visiting emigre specialists.

He's even come up with a catchy name - the "White Zone" - similar to Baghdad's fortress-like "Green Zone" for international staff. Al-Hasnawi promoted the plan in a meeting in Jordan with Iraqi doctors. "Our proposal is that the military can provide security for this complex, and we bring doctors from outside Iraq because it is a secure area," he said in an interview at the Rashid Hotel in the Green Zone, where he and other Iraqi Cabinet ministers still live for security reasons. "This is a first step in bringing the doctors home," he said.

Iraq needs 100,000 doctors and has only 15,500, said Adel Muhsein, a top Health Ministry official. Egypt and Jordan, compared to oil-rich Iraq, have almost four times as many - 24 per 10,000 residents to Iraq's six per 10,000. Iraqi rheumatologist Dr. Muneeb al-Huwais, who has settled in the Jordanian capital of Amman, said he likes the idea of the White Zone, but that it's not enough to lure him back. "When you leave the hospital and go home, you don't know what will happen to you," said the 61-year-old, who fled Iraq in late 2004 after being seized by a dozen gunmen outside his Baghdad clinic.

During a struggle, the abductors broke his right arm with a rifle butt, but released him five days later for $40,000 in ransom. Al-Huwais's experience isn't unusual. In the past five years, Iraq's doctors, professionals and academics have been targeted by militants trying to widen chaos or by extortion gangs going after the wealthy. Since 2003, at least 620 medical professionals, including 154 doctors, have been killed and many more threatened. "Simply, the goal is to destroy Iraq," Muhsein said.