Figure 1. Lines of care in the Saudi health care system

FOURTH LINE  
Referral Hospitals  
(Medical Cities)  
Provide specialised diagnostic, curative, surgical, and rehabilitative services. Additionally, these kind of facilities work as research and teaching centres. They received referred patients from the third line of care. However, admission to these facilities is very limited.

THIRD LINE  
Central Hospitals  
Provide advanced diagnostic, curative, surgical, and rehabilitative services. Patients who need specialised health services are transferred to the fourth line of care.

SECOND LINE  
General Hospitals and Peripheral (Community) Hospitals  
Provide diagnostic and curative services through emergency departments, outpatient clinics, hospitalisation, and minor surgeries. Patients who need a higher level of health services are transferred to the third line of care.

FIRST LINE  
Primary Healthcare  
Provide the basic curative, preventive, and promotive services. Patients who need a higher level of health services are transferred to the second line of care.