



Karan Rekhi, CEO of Forte Healthcare

## Forte: Huge investment opportunities in the Saudi healthcare sector

Government spending in this sector is expected to increase from 5% to 8% annually.

*Dubai - Alarabiya.net*

Published in: Jul 03, 2021: 01:33 PM GST

The CEO of Forte Healthcare, Karan Rekhi, confirmed that the health care market in Saudi Arabia has tremendous growth opportunities, with major international companies looking to enter this market in an unprecedented way, especially with the changes that occurred in the markets due to the pandemic. "Covid-19", which highlighted the role of the Saudi market, the largest in the Gulf, as it serves a community in which about 35 million people live.

Rekhi indicated in a press release that there is a great scope for investment in hospitals, especially that there are currently about 490 hospitals, most of which are publicly owned, and therefore the private sector has begun to enter the health care sector in a more vibrant and active manner.

"[Government spending on the health sector in the Kingdom is estimated at 5.5% annually](#) since 2017, and I think it will soon rise to 8% with the significant improvement in oil prices, which gives the government more income and more freedom in spending on the health sector," Rekhi said.



Workers in a Saudi health facility (AFP)

Rekhi pointed to the interest of the private sector in obtaining a greater share in the health care market in the Kingdom, especially that 20 private hospitals have been established in the Saudi market belonging to the private sector during the last three years.

With regard to foreign forms, Rekhi said that the health care sector is depleting a lot of liquidity and needs capabilities that exceed the usual in terms of managing liquidity and cash flow, and therefore we may find a significant number of private sector hospitals asking for help from international financial and investment institutions to enter into partnership with them, whether on The form of acquisition or financing in order to ensure its ability to continue, and with the change of investment laws in the Kingdom and the granting of greater freedom to the foreign investor, the opportunities for them to find the right partner have become relatively easier.

Rekhi added: "We play the advisory role for several international institutions, including a very large institution that wants to enter the Saudi market, but is seriously looking for the right partner that owns existing health institutions and a network of outpatient clinics spread in a number of regions of the Kingdom, adding that such institutions pump large financial investments to serve Not only the healthcare sectors, but also a number of other vital economic sectors.