## CONFERENCE ON QUALITY IN HEALTHCARE

On the occasion of the 30<sup>th</sup> IsQua conference on quality in healthcare in Geneva, the Syndicate of Hospitals presented the achievements of Lebanese private hospitals in healthcare accreditation. The syndicate president, Mr. Sleiman Haroun underlined the leading role of Lebanese hospitals in the field of accreditation highlighting the continuous efforts in quality improvement for the past 12 years. As emphasized by Mr. Haroun, Lebanon has been a pioneer in all aspects of health care thanks to the educated elite, entrepreneurial spirit, and dynamism of the private sector, since the dawn days of hospitalization in the Middle East in1848, to the latest accreditation audit in 2012.

Throughout the years, the accreditation process has been amended and evolved to meet the new international trends in patient safety and measurement of outcomes. The chairman of the session, Dr Charles Shaw, expert adviser to the EC DUQuE research project on a design for hospital audit tools and analysis of clinical governance, pointed out that all advanced accreditation systems were done by independent bodies. Mr. Haroun summarized his recommendations, endorsed by most of the delegates present during the discussion, as follows:

## The Syndicate's vision for the future of accreditation

- More *Outcome* oriented
- Having a *National Independent* accreditation body
- *Local Surveyors* training and development
- Creation of a *Public Reporting System* with similar indicators among all hospitals

Mr Haroun stressed that: "Some studies suggest that hospitals might adopt opportunistic behaviors solely with the aim of gaining accreditation, particularly when governments link accreditation to other objectives, such as Payment mechanisms, Resource allocation, and so on. Therefore, in order for the government to pursue the quality improvement objective of accreditation, careful consideration should be given to finely balanced mix of monetary and non-monetary incentives to change behaviors."



Although neighboring countries have made interesting progress in the field, Lebanon remains one of the few countries that have achieved 3 rounds of accreditation of all its private hospitals. Lebanon has been a leader in the field. The effort and investment done by its hospital was tremendous. We hope that we can pursue this improvement mission by establishing new standards, a revised procedure and an accredited auditor education program.







مستشفی جبل عامل صور - جل البحر - العبّاسية ٥٢/٢٨٠٥٨٠ ٠٧/٧٤٠٣٤٣ ٠٧/٧٤٠١٩٨ فاکس: ٥٢/٣٤٣٨٥٤