



# Patients on the Move

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# Patients travelling to a different country for health care

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# Health Tourism



- History
  - Sacred waters
  - TB sanatoriums
  - Clinique de Genolier
  - US referral hospitals
- New face
  - Developing countries
  - Financial incentive
  - Waiting periods
  - Tourism package

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# Context

- Globalization
  - Technological advances
  - Communication/education
  - Harmonization
- Economy
  - Privatization
  - Transnational corporations
  - Financial interests
- Expanded markets



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# Services

- Heart surgery
- Hip/knee replacement
- Cosmetic surgery
- Eye surgery
- Kidney dialysis
- Organ transplantation
- Sex-change surgery
- Cancer therapy
- Dental procedures
- Alcohol and drug addiction treatment
- Fertility treatment

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# Host Countries

- India
- Thailand
- South Africa
- Hungary
- Cuba
- Costa Rica
- Argentina
- Jamaica
- Jordan
- Malaysia
- Latvia
- Estonia

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# Impact



- Income
- Health financing
- Intranational migration
- Public/private mix
- Standards
- Credentialing
- Pay disparities

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# Impact (2)

- Retain health professionals
- Professional development
- Disseminate evidence-based practice
- Public relations care



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# Growth Industry

Influences beyond health care:

- National/international economy
- Education
- Regulation
- Insurance industry
- Tourism
- Quality of life
- People's expectations



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# What are the risks?



- Patient safety
- Professional regulation
- Legal recourse
- Follow-up care
- Recovery vs vacation behaviour
- Weakened labour movement
- Health budget diversion

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# **Social phenomenon**

- Monitor
- Evaluate

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