

# The world is your hospital

**BY MEAGEN THOMAS**

Canada's healthcare system is the envy of nations around the world. Urgent and critical care is first rate, but growing wait times for non-critical and elective care have stretched from inconvenient to downright intolerable.

Need elective knee surgery? Unless you are a star running back, expect to wait a year... for the MRI. Count on waiting another year or two for the surgery, but once you have it don't get too cozy in recovery; hospitals that used to allow a week for post-op recovering are bouncing woozy patients out the door after four days, or less in some cases.

Canada's model healthcare is itself in critical condition. Resources can't keep up with demand, and people in non-critical conditions are sick and tired of being sick and tired.

Offshore solutions aren't just for manufacturing companies and IT firms. More and more Canadian's are saying 'sayonara' to waiting lists and getting treatment abroad.

Adele Kulyk is the CEO and managing director of Canada's new and Saskatch-



Adele Kulyk, CEO- Global Healthcare Connections Inc.  
Kristen Major- Case Manager

PHOTO BY CHRISTINE ENGEL

ewan's only comprehensive medical destination company. She's seen first-hand—as many people have—the too-high price of too little treatment, much too late.

As she grieved the loss of a colleague whose 11th hour, stage-four cancer diagnosis robbed his wife and three children of a loving father, Kulyk made a radical decision. She couldn't change her friend's fate, but she could leverage her two decades of tourism, business and communications expertise to change the fate of many, many others.

Global Healthcare Connections is based in Saskatoon but has partnerships with world-class medical, dental, cosmetic and diagnostic facilities all over the world. Kulyk can vouch for the calibre and quality of the professional facilities abroad because she has made a point of visiting many of them in person.

"I can tell you that the care people can expect overseas is in a completely different league," said Kulyk.

"If it seems like the doctors and nurses



seem unusually interested in you, your care and your health, it's because they genuinely are. They have a model of compassionately, patient-centric care that's worlds away from anything we experience here."

## Not about 'queue' jumping

No one should have to suffer an hour, a day or a month longer than is reasonable, but thousands and thousands of Canadians are lingering anxiously in wait-list limbo—and the list gets longer everyday.

Just because treatment isn't life threatening doesn't mean it isn't vital to quality of life.

Picture a 50-year-old woman in perfect health but being slowly crippled by dete-

riorating knees; a 20-year-old man whose premature hairlines makes him look not a day over 45; a couple in their late 30s wishing for a child and struggling with the medical and emotional rigors of \$20,000 fertility treatments, coupled with knowing that odds of success aren't much better than one in four per treatment; an MS patient seeking medically-proven, but not covered, Liberation treatment that could radically mitigate their symptoms.

By visiting another destination where the treatments for these and dozens more conditions aren't just plentiful, but are more advanced and surprisingly affordable, people from all walks of life can have their health and happiness restored in weeks, not years.

"Medical tourism is not about queue jumping and it's not about access for

some elite, uber-wealthy segment of society," said Kulyk.

"It's for everyday people who are tired of being in pain, tired of life on a wait list, who want their lives and their health restored in time for them to enjoy their life."

## What is medical tourism?

Also known as medical travel, health travel, health tourism or global healthcare, it is the term used to describe the rapidly growing practice of traveling across borders to obtain healthcare.

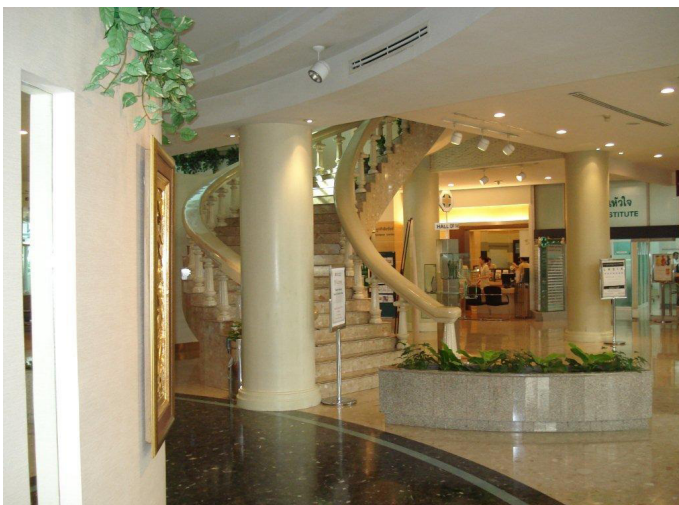
It could mean a couple hundred-kilometre drive or flying halfway around the world. Individuals seek medical travel for virtually every type of healthcare, including permanent weight loss, life-threatening



Karen Manlolo and Brad Kulyk discussing an upcoming trip with Adele Kulyk



Emerald Palace, Bangkok, Thailand

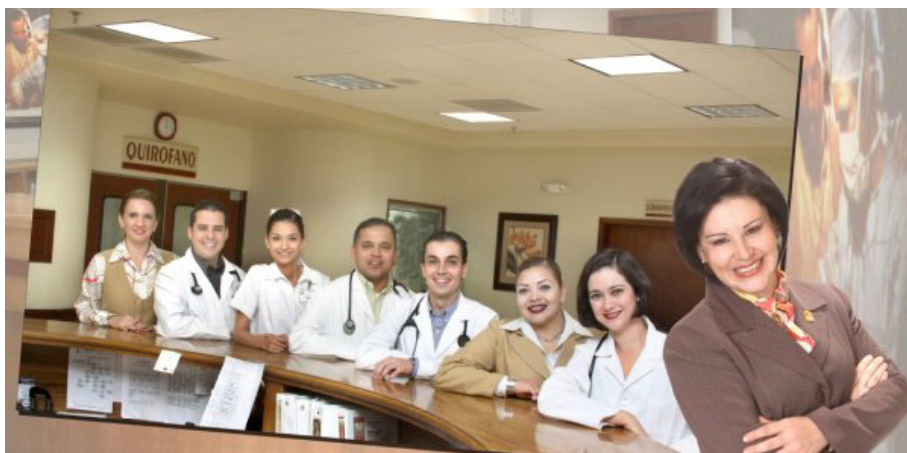


Main Lobby, Samitivej Hospital, Bangkok, Thailand





Bangkok Hospital



International Patient Staff, Almater Hospital - Mexicali, Baja California

conditions, cosmetic and dental treatments.

The reasons to consider medical tourism are different for everyone. The most common reason people look to medical tourism is timely access because there is virtually no wait-time for most procedures. Others want access to procedures not currently available or covered in their province or in Canada.

Because the treatments are taking place in an exotic or tropical destination, many people turn a medical trip into a once-in-a-lifetime holiday adventure. "Or, why not take that exciting trip and get a state-of-the-art health assessment or dental work at savings of up to 75 per cent while you're there?" Kulyk said.

Many clients take full advantage of the low costs to access multiple services

while abroad including comprehensive medical exams such as MRIs, full cardio work ups, screening and early detection of cancer through tumour-marker testing, dental exams and audiology exams.

## Worry-free care

Seeking care abroad can be daunting. How do you find and access licensed, respectable medical professionals in specialty health centres located around the world? What should you ask, know, or expect?

Global Healthcare Connections Inc. has you covered. They have connections with top facilities in locations all over the world—and in many cases, they have actually visited the facilities to assure quality.

No matter where you go, Global Healthcare Connection Inc's international network of care facilitators can travel with you or be your liaison when you arrive. Native-speaking assistants who know the destination country inside and out will be your constant companions, tending to your every need before, during and after the procedure.

"Global Healthcare Connections was created specifically to provide you with the information and services you need to connect with accessible healthcare in a timely manner," said Kulyk.

"We will save you time, money and relief from the stress of planning your entire travel itinerary and treatment process on your own. Our commitment is to deliver your services in a timely, caring and confidential manner, ensuring that you have a safe and comfortable experience from your first call to your return home."



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