

A photograph of a white medical clipboard with a blue clip, a white stethoscope, and a pen, resting on a light blue surface.

## Clinical Trials in the Middle East: A Region Worth Watching Closely

Client Update – June 2026

### Dear Clients,

Recent official and institutional developments across several Middle Eastern jurisdictions point to sustained investment in the regulatory infrastructure, patient access frameworks, and operational conditions needed to support clinical research. This broader trend has also been reflected in *Clinical Trials in the Middle East: The Five Key Countries*, a recent publication associated with GlobalData and Oximio. While it is only one market indicator, it reinforces a wider point: the Middle East is drawing increasing attention in the global clinical trials landscape, even though it remains a highly differentiated region rather than a single uniform market - and Israeli companies are often well positioned to engage ([click here](#) to read the full publication).

When read alongside broader regulatory and institutional developments across the region, the picture that emerges is one of sustained investment by several Middle Eastern jurisdictions in the conditions needed to support clinical research, even if they are advancing from different starting points, under different constraints, and at different speeds.

Viewed more broadly, the region is attracting attention for different reasons in different jurisdictions. Israel's own ecosystem, anchored by world-class research hospitals, a mature clinical research environment, a sophisticated biotech and medtech industry, and integrated electronic health records, continues to serve as a credible first reference market and a platform for multi-center regional studies. Saudi Arabia is drawing interest for its

scale, the pace of healthcare investment under Vision 2030, and active government support for expanding domestic research capacity. The United Arab Emirates stands out for its advanced healthcare infrastructure, regulatory openness to innovative therapies, and appetite for early market engagement with novel medical devices and diagnostics. For companies, including Israeli companies, considering regional trial strategies, the practical task is to assess how the strengths, limitations, and operating conditions of these market profiles translate into concrete advantages or limitations for a given program.

For life sciences companies, this has practical implications well beyond geography. It may affect site selection, patient recruitment strategy, local partner and CRO selection, contracting structures, clinical supply chain logistics, and the sequencing of regulatory submissions across target markets. In that sense, the practical task is to identify which jurisdictions may be relevant for which type of program, and under what operational and geopolitical constraints.

Any regional discussion requires caution, and this is especially true from an Israeli perspective. The Middle East is not a seamless operating environment. For Israeli companies, engagement with specific jurisdictions must be assessed carefully against the current state of bilateral relationships, the practical feasibility of direct contractual engagement, cross-border logistics and monitoring constraints, and any applicable Israeli legal or regulatory restrictions. These considerations vary considerably by country and are subject to change. A jurisdiction-by-jurisdiction approach, informed by both scientific and geopolitical realities, is therefore essential, and blanket regional assumptions are unlikely to be reliable.

As regional clinical research capabilities continue to evolve, Israeli life sciences companies may find selective engagement increasingly worthwhile, particularly where regional trial activity can support faster recruitment, broaden regulatory dossiers, or open commercial pathways in high-growth markets. The key is approaching these opportunities with a clear understanding of the practical considerations involved.

The information provided in this client update is for general informational purposes only and should not be construed as legal advice or a substitute for professional legal counsel.

As always, the team at Agmon with Tulchinsky remains at your disposal.



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