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Sidra to Open Outpatient Clinic on 1st May 2016

- **Launch of Sidra Outpatient Clinic part of phased opening**
- **Three clinics specializing in women and children's services will be ready for referral based patients from primary or secondary healthcare facilities**

Doha, Qatar, 15 March 2016 — Sidra Medical and Research Center (Sidra) is pleased to announce the phased opening of its Outpatient Clinic on the 1st of May 2016. With a strong patient and family centered focus, the Sidra Outpatient Clinic will be a high tech facility that will enhance patient care, promote efficiency and ensure safety.

Led by a team of specialized doctors, nurses and allied health professionals, services at the Sidra Outpatient Clinic on the 1st of May will start with the launch of three clinics – Dermatology, Pediatric General Surgery Consultation and Obstetrics. The clinics will be supported by radiology, pathology, pharmacy and laboratory facilities. Patients requiring consultation at the three clinics will be referred to Sidra by their existing primary or secondary healthcare doctor. As it is referral based, the Sidra Outpatient Clinic will not offer emergency services.

“The opening of the Outpatient Clinic is an important first step in the phased opening of Sidra Medical and Research Center. This marks the beginning of our journey to establish Sidra as a state-of-the-art hospital and research center. Our goal is to provide patient-centered clinical care, conduct pioneering research and to educate and train future healthcare professionals,” said the Professor the Lord Darzi of Denham, Vice-Chairperson of Sidra Medical and Research Center.

“Our team has worked incredibly hard and has been collaborating closely with Hamad Medical Corporation in preparing for the opening of the Sidra Outpatient Clinic. Every aspect of the services and technology at the Sidra Outpatient Clinic will be centered on patient safety and enhancing the patient experience,” continued Lord Darzi.

The Sidra Outpatient Clinic will adopt the latest technologies to enhance patient experience. For example, pediatric patients will have their height, temperature and weight read by devices which will send the information directly to digital patient files - ensuring that patient information is streamlined and also allowing nurses to spend more time on patient care.

Patients will also benefit from the rapid review and reporting of digital images from X-rays, Ultrasound Scans, Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) scans or Computerized Tomography (CT) scans all within minutes of being scanned. A 3D printer will provide 3D models of a patient's organs such as the heart or the brain to help with treatment planning.

Acting Chief Medical Officer Dr. Abdulla Al-Kaabi said, “As we are a referral based outpatient clinic, we have developed and streamlined our processes and systems to ensure the safe and effective transition of care for the patients coming from other healthcare institutions. Creating and maintaining a patient-safety culture will be integral in our day to day operations. Our ethos is centered in putting our patients and their families at the heart of our strategy to provide high quality patient care. We are looking forward to sharing more details about the Sidra Outpatient Clinic and its services over the next few weeks.”

As part of the phased opening of services at the Sidra Outpatient Clinic, plans are in place to offer more pediatric services over the course of 2016. This will eventually include neonatology consultation, developmental pediatrics, child and adolescent mental health, Ear Nose and Throat (ENT), pre-operative anesthetic assessment and preparation.

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Notes to the Editor

Supporting Q&As:

- **How will patients be referred to Sidra?**

The Sidra Outpatient Clinic will provide specialist healthcare to patients after they have been referred by their primary or secondary healthcare practitioner.

For example, if you are a patient with Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC) or Primary Health Care Corporation (PHCC) and require specialist care in dermatology, pediatric general surgery consultation, obstetrics diagnostics and obstetrics – as of the 1st of May 2016 onwards your doctor at HMC or PHCC may refer or direct you to see a healthcare practitioner based at Sidra.

- **Will the Sidra Outpatient Clinic offer emergency services?**

No, Sidra will not be offering emergency services at the Outpatient Clinic. If there is a medical emergency, adult patients are advised to go to Hamad's Emergency Department. Parents are advised to take their children to HMC's Pediatric Emergency Centers.

The Sidra Outpatient Clinic is based strictly on a referral system. This means that all patients coming to Sidra will be referred to a specialized healthcare professional after they have been assessed by their secondary or primary healthcare practitioner.

For example, if a patient from Hamad Medical Corporation or Primary Health Care Corporation or one of HMC's Pediatric Emergency Centers requires specialized care – particularly related to dermatology, obstetrics or pediatric general surgery consultation, the doctor will direct the patient to see a healthcare practitioner at the Sidra Outpatient Clinic. Patients should not come to Sidra if they do not have a referral from their existing healthcare practitioner.

- **How will appointments at Sidra be scheduled?**

Once a referral has been made to the Sidra Outpatient Clinic, a patient's existing healthcare provider will coordinate with them to schedule and confirm a consultation at Sidra.

- **What are the timings at the Sidra Outpatient Clinic?**

The Sidra Outpatient Clinic hours will run from 7.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. on weekdays only.

- **What kind of clinical services will Sidra be offering from 1st of May onwards?**

The Sidra Outpatient Clinic will be offering outpatient care based on diagnoses, observation, consultation and treatment. These services do not require an overnight hospital stay. From the 1st of May 2016, services at the Sidra Outpatient Clinic will include dermatology, pediatric general surgery consultation, obstetrics, radiology, pathology, pharmacy and laboratory services.

- **Will there be other clinical services in the future?**

Yes. Plans are currently in place to offer more pediatric services including neonatology consultation, developmental pediatrics, child and adolescent mental health, Ear Nose and Throat (ENT), pre-operative anesthetic assessment and preparation. A full range of specialist medical clinics will also be rolled out in the near future. Sidra will be making announcements about new services in the months to come.

- **How will patients pay for these services?**

More details related to pricing, scheduling and registration will be shared in the weeks leading up to the opening of the Sidra Outpatient Clinic.



About Sidra Medical and Research Center

Sidra Medical and Research Center will be a groundbreaking hospital, research and education institution, focusing on the health and wellbeing of children and women regionally and globally.

Sidra represents the vision of Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser who serves as its Chairperson. The high-tech facility will not only provide world-class patient care but will also help build Qatar's scientific expertise and resources.

Sidra will be a fully digital facility, incorporating the most advanced information technology applications in all its functions. Designed by renowned architect Cesar Pelli, Sidra features a main hospital building and a separate outpatient clinic. The main hospital will initially have 400 beds with infrastructure to enable expansion to 550 beds in a subsequent phase.

Sidra is preparing to open its outpatient women and children's services on the 1st of May 2016. The Sidra Outpatient Clinic will offer several outpatient services through a referral based system in partnership with other healthcare providers in Qatar. The Sidra Outpatient Clinic will open on 1st May 2016 with the launch of three clinics – Dermatology, Pediatric General Surgery Consultation and Obstetrics. These clinics will be supported by radiology, pathology, pharmacy and laboratory facilities. Patients requiring consultation for the listed clinical services will be referred to Sidra by their existing primary or secondary healthcare practitioner. More services will be rolled out over the course of 2016.

Sidra is also part of a dynamic research and education environment in Qatar and through strong partnerships with leading institutions around the world, Sidra is creating an intellectual ecosystem to help advance scientific discovery through investment in medical research.

For more information please visit www.sidra.org.

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