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**Innovative Enterprise Enables More Affordable Healthcare**

**Placing itself front and center in the growing world of medical tourism, a new provider is setting itself apart.**

*"Medical tourism is booming, and its future will be fueled by failing social and medical insurance systems," adds Harper. "In enabling clients to take advantage of this thriving industry, we are offering the same or higher quality service they would get in the U.S., for less than half the price."*

**/24-7PressRelease/** - ISSAQUAH, WA, July 23, 2008 - "We are here in the U.S. coordinating all the needs of our clients, and we have a U.S. citizen living in India, helping our clients when they arrive," says MedPath Group's Director of Sales Carlos Harper. "I think this will make more people feel comfortable and have a sense of trust in our representative throughout every step of their journey."

Medical tourism is defined as traveling across international borders to obtain healthcare in the form of specialized surgeries and elective procedures. Its increasing popularity can be attributed to the high cost and long wait times of domestic health care, restrictions imposed by insurance providers regarding facilities and surgeons, and improvements in the technology and standards of care in many countries. Even some American employers are getting on board, offering employee benefit incentives like free airfare and zero out-of-pocket expenses for foreign care.

While medical tourism is far from new, dawning thousands of years ago with Greek pilgrimages to a Saronic Gulf territory known as the sanctuary of the healing god Asklepios, it certainly is evolving. Today, common destinations can be found within Asia-Pacific, Europe, and North, Central and South America, and treatment options include orthopedic, cardiac, and dental care; organ transplants; weight loss surgery; cosmetic surgery; fertility treatments ("reproductive tourism"); neurosurgery; and LASIK surgery.

"All medical treatments are standardized across the globe, and some of the world's most renowned doctors and leaders in medical practice are located outside of the United States," says Harper. "Quality of care and recovery is much more comprehensive, and it is possible for the patient to have a full-time care giver and stay on for an extended period."

Giving the company a broad perspective on its trade, MedPath Group is managed from opposite points of the United States, as well as from the United Arab Emirates. Co-founded by Harper in Issaquah, Wash.; Director of Marketing Gavin Edwards in Lauderhill, Fla.; and Director of Operations Rohan Kapoor in Dubai, the company was born from a family member's ordeal.

"My sister was denied by her insurance several times for gastric bypass surgery, and was asked to pay an unbelievable price of \$35,000 USD," explains Harper. "After much research, we found that she could get the surgery for only \$7,500 USD in India, and have far superior healthcare. Two years later, my sister is 150 pounds lighter and our inspiration for starting this company."

According to MedPath Group, a gastric bypass surgery in India or Thailand plus airfare, accommodations, food, and a 30-day recovery at an island resort is a package not exceeding \$20,000 USD.

"That is 30 percent less than in the U.S.," adds Harper, "where you are rushed out of the hospital within three or four days." Serving clients from anywhere in the world, MedPath Group arranges medical tourism to Mexico, Turkey, Costa Rica, Thailand, Vietnam, and South Korea, as well as India, and plans to add the Philippines. As both its business and the industry grow, Harper says the company is constantly seeking out other popular destinations for its clients.

MedPath Group has formed strategic alliances with top hospitals around the world that are internationally accredited to U.S. healthcare standards by Joint Commission International (JCI), a non-profit organization that also accredits U.S. hospitals. In an effort to serve more medical tourists, foreign hospitals are increasingly seeking dual international accreditation, with JCI covering their U.S. patients, and United Kingdom-based accreditor Trent International Accreditation Scheme overseeing their care of people from the UK, Hong Kong, and elsewhere. According to Harper, most of the physicians at these accredited facilities have either studied, practiced, or become licensed in the U.S. or UK, and the doctors and staff speak

English.

MedPath Group works within a comprehensive, 10-step process that includes helping a patient identify the care they need or want, a thorough consultation with a medical specialist, available financing, transportation coordination for the medical procedure, and an English-speaking personal escort at their destination.

Going not one but three steps further, the company established the MedPath Travel Buddy Group, which enables people to identify and coordinate surgery dates with other medical tourists with whom they wish to travel; it provides a link from its website to Google Groups for Medical Tourism Experience; and it distributes a free e-newsletter.

For more information and to acquire a quote, visit [www.medpathgroup.com](http://www.medpathgroup.com).

About MedPath Group, Inc

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