

Global Immigration alert

September 2026

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Bahrain

Bahrain introduces mandatory private medical insurance for dependent visa applications

Executive summary

Effective 1 September 2026, Bahrain has introduced private medical insurance as a mandatory requirement for new dependent visa applications. While this requirement is expected to be extended to renewal applications in the future, it currently applies only to new dependent visa submissions. Applications submitted without compliant medical insurance coverage may be returned or rejected, resulting in delays in processing.

Key developments

Key developments include:

- Private medical insurance coverage is now required for all new dependent visa applications.
- The insurance policy must have a minimum validity period of two years.
- At a minimum, applicants must obtain a policy that provides basic medical coverage.
- Where the employment contract specifies dependent medical coverage, the employer is expected to provide the insurance.
- Although no formal public announcement has been made, the Labour Market Regulatory Authority (LMRA) portal notifications are requesting proof of compliant medical insurance before applications can proceed.
- Application rejections have already been experienced where compliant medical insurance was not provided.

Impact on employers

- Employers sponsoring employees with dependents in Bahrain should review current immigration and onboarding processes to ensure medical insurance requirements are addressed prior to visa submissions. Failure to obtain compliant coverage may result in application delays, rejections and additional administrative effort to resubmit applications.
- Employers that provide dependent medical coverage as part of employment terms should also verify that existing insurance arrangements satisfy the new visa application requirements.

Key steps

EY will continue to monitor these developments. Should you have any questions, we encourage you to contact one of our immigration professionals.

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