

Investor & Strategy Guides

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Healthcare Facility Planning Guide (Kenya)

Strategic Considerations Before Establishing a Healthcare Facility

Purpose

Planning a healthcare facility requires careful alignment between regulatory requirements, market demand, infrastructure design, and operational strategy. Many healthcare projects face delays, compliance challenges, or financial inefficiencies because critical planning steps were overlooked at the early stages.

This guide provides investors, doctors, and healthcare organisations with a structured framework for planning healthcare facilities within the Kenyan regulatory environment.

1. Determining the Correct Facility Level

Healthcare facilities in Kenya must operate within the defined Ministry of Health facility level framework. Choosing the correct facility level is one of the most important early planning decisions.

Key considerations include:

- Identifying the appropriate facility level (Level 2–6) based on services offered.
- Aligning the scope of services with regulatory licensing requirements.
- Understanding staffing, equipment, and infrastructure expectations for each facility level.

Incorrect facility classification is one of the most common causes of licensing delays.

2. Location and Market Assessment

Healthcare facilities should be strategically located to serve real community needs while maintaining financial sustainability.

Important planning considerations include:

- Population density and healthcare demand in the target area.
- Existing healthcare facilities and competitive service offerings.
- Accessibility for patients, including transport and road infrastructure.

A well-chosen location significantly increases long-term facility viability.

3. Infrastructure and Facility Design

Facility design directly influences operational efficiency, infection control, and patient experience.

Planning should include:

- Proper zoning of clinical and administrative areas.
- Efficient patient flow from reception to consultation and discharge.
- Adequate space for diagnostics, procedures, and waiting areas.

Facility layout decisions made during planning stages have long-term operational impact.

4. Regulatory and Compliance Preparation

Early understanding of regulatory expectations helps avoid costly redesigns or licensing delays.

Facilities should prepare for:

- Licensing requirements from relevant regulatory bodies.
- Required documentation such as policies, protocols, and operational systems.
- Compliance with infection prevention, waste management, and safety standards.

Planning for compliance early allows healthcare projects to progress smoothly through licensing and inspection stages.