Muscat Private Hospital (MPH) has become the first hospital in Oman to gain accreditation from international healthcare accreditation company Joint Commission International (JCI). “This is an important day for us,” said Murat Kucukkaya, hospital administrator, at a press conference held last week. “The accreditation was a big challenge and we worked very hard for it.”

“Not only are we the first hospital in Oman to be accredited by JCI, but the first in the region to have been successful on our first application,” said Dr Mohammed Obeid, head of the emergency department since the hospital opened in 2000.

JCI has been running since 1994 and is the international branch of the Joint Commission, a US healthcare accreditation and certification organisation. JCI has accredited or certified over 450 public and private healthcare organisations in 50 countries.

To gain accreditation, which is valid for a period of three years, a hospital must achieve a compliance score of 90 per cent out of over 1,200 measurable factors, including patient safety, patient rights, medication management, credentialing of medical staff and leadership.

The judging process included a four-day series of surveys by an international team of healthcare professionals. The surveyors visited the hospital, evaluated each department and interviewed members of staff and patients.

“We committed ourselves to achieving accreditation two years ago and have worked to create, edit and implement our policies,” said Murat. “It has all been down to our entire staff for their dedication to healthcare, not for themselves but for their patients. We’d like to see more healthcare providers in Oman following in our steps.”