

## Applying for Care

Families in the UAE who have been affected by cleft conditions can apply for treatment with Operation Smile and, if eligible, may be invited to attend the next available screening assessment.

During the screening process, our multi-disciplinary volunteer medical team will assess each patient's needs and decide which patients qualify for the upcoming surgical program.

The eligibility of families is determined by two factors: their health insurance coverage and their financial ability to cover the costs of treatment independently.

Those whose health insurance does not cover cleft care and who do not have sufficient income are likely to be eligible.

However, those who have previously demonstrated an ability to pay for cleft care services or who are currently receiving or seeking assistance from other organizations for cleft care may not qualify.

This ensures that families in greatest need receive priority for treatment.

## About Us

Operation Smile is an international charitable organization that provides free corrective surgery and comprehensive care to patients, in over 30 countries around the world, suffering from cleft lip and cleft palate.

The Operation Smile UAE foundation was established in 2011 and is registered with both the Ministry of Community Development and the Department of Community Development Abu Dhabi.

In 2017 Operation Smile established a partnership with the Department of Health Abu Dhabi to be able to conduct surgical programs in the UAE.

We have since provided surgery and comprehensive care to over 100 families residing in the UAE affected by cleft conditions.

## Contact Us

For those seeking treatment for a cleft condition, Operation Smile UAE can be contacted through the following:

Tel: +971 2 658 1790

email: [patients@operationsmileuae.ae](mailto:patients@operationsmileuae.ae)



# Operation Smile UAE

Medical Charity for Cleft Care



## Our Services



### Surgical Programs

Our 2-day surgical programs are scheduled 2-3 times a year. They are conducted in our partner hospitals which provide an Operating room and ward for us to use over the course of a weekend. Surgeries are performed by teams of Operation Smile credentialed Medical Volunteers, from different hospitals across the UAE, who donate their time and expertise free of charge during our surgical programs.

### Nutrition and Development Programs

We provide nutritional advice and consultations from our volunteer Pediatricians and Dieticians. We also provide supplements to help patients who need extra calories before and after surgery. Other advisory services for parents of babies affected by cleft conditions may include help with breastfeeding and feeding such as teaching alternative techniques or providing special bottles.



## Our Services

### Dental and Orthodontic Programs

We help patients by arranging dental and orthodontic consultations, treatment, and education. We have volunteer Orthodontists and Dentists who help patients individually. We also have partnerships with various Dental Clinics. This can include fitting patients with obturators, addressing dental issues that may affect a patient's eligibility for surgery or administering palatal expansion plans in preparation for bone graft surgeries.

### Speech Therapy Programs

We have volunteer Speech Therapists who help us during screenings and post-operative check-ups. They help us to know if speech therapy is recommended and if further surgery may be needed to improve speech capabilities.