

WHO Health Tech Announcements

January 2019 newsletter on medical devices

1. **4th WHO Global Forum on Medical Devices, December 2018**

The Fourth WHO Global Forum on Medical Device (4GFMD) “Increasing access to medical devices”, was successfully held from 13-15 December 2018, at the Andhra Pradesh MedTech Zone in Visakhapatnam, India. The programme included over 200 presentations on topics ranging from medical devices classification and nomenclature (ICMD) to the WHO Essential in vitro Diagnostic List (EDL), Priority medical device (PMD) to Oxygen delivery systems, besides regulation, assessment, procurement, innovation, among other topics. The event was attended by representatives of WHO, as well as senior Indian government officials from India, and had over 1000 participants from 92 countries. The evaluation and final report are in process.

All presentations, posters, photos and list of participants are now available online at: http://www.who.int/medical_devices/en/

WHO is thankful to Ministry of Health India, AMTZ, organizers and all attendees.

2. **WHO Executive Board meeting 2019**

The 144th Executive Board meeting took place from 24th January to 1st February. The Executive Board is composed of 34 technically qualified members elected for three-year terms. <https://www.who.int/mediacentre/events/governance/eb/en/>

Important topics were discussed as: patient safety, access to medicines, vaccines and health products (which specifically addresses medical devices), cervical cancer, ICD11, ... and these will be presented in the World Health Assembly in May. <https://www.who.int/news-room/events/executive-board-144th-session>

During this Executive Board meeting 71 NGOs were approved to continue as Non-State Actors in official relations with WHO for 3 more years. Among them: IFCC, IFBLS, IFHE, IFMBE, ISR, ISRRT, IUA, WASPALM and WFUMB; besides, WFBMB (World Federation of Nuclear Medicine and Biology) was approved for the first time. Looking forward to continue working with them.

http://apps.who.int/gb/e/e_eb144.html

3. **WHO: Essential in vitro Diagnostic List (EDL)**

It is expected that the EDL will provide guidance and serve as a reference to Member States and other parties involved in developing and/or updating lists of national essential IVDs (In vitro diagnostics) and/or medical devices, and selecting and implementing such IVDs.

More: https://www.who.int/medical_devices/diagnostics/Selection_in-vitro_diagnostics/en/.

To support the implementation of EDL, WHO has recently developed a new website that hosts all WHO information on clinical laboratory and in vitro diagnostics <https://www.who.int/in-vitro-diagnostic/en/>

The Strategic Advisory Group of experts for IVD will meet 18 to 21 March 2019 to recommend the tests for the second edition of the EDL.

An open session with all stakeholders will take place 18 March 2019. A link to register, and information on the tests to be discussed, will be available by 18 February.

4. **Classification and Nomenclature of Medical devices**

The nomenclature of medical devices is a coding system used to generically identify medical devices and related health products.

Having a nomenclature system in place for medical devices facilitates their management and regulation by standardizing terms that enable communication despite linguistic and other barriers.

More information:

https://www.who.int/medical_devices/priority/mde_nomenclature/en/

During the 4th Global Forum on Medical Devices, the work in progress of the International Classification of Medical Devices (ICMD), using the ICD platform, was presented.

https://www.who.int/medical_devices/global_forum/4th_gfmd_plenary_presentations/en/index2.html

This major project aims to have a comprehensive international harmonized nomenclature for medical devices, which would be freely available, downloadable. This has been done to support access to medical devices for better health care delivery, in line with Sustainable Development Goal #3 and the WHO Thirteenth General Programme of Work (2019–2023).

You can see the development of the site in the following link and browse for other medical devices: this example is for clamps and clips.

<https://icd.who.int/dev11/1-l-m/en#/http%3a%2f%2fid.who.int%2fid%2fentity%2f1542461195>

Stay tuned for further developments, which will appear in subsequent newsletters and publications.

5. **Priority medical devices for Cancer.**

4th February is cancer day. WHO is committed to eliminate Cervical Cancer. Cervical cancer is the fourth most frequent cancer in women. However, it is very preventable. See more information here:

<https://www.who.int/cancer/prevention/diagnosis-screening/cervical-cancer/en/>

Information on medical devices for cancer:

https://www.who.int/medical_devices/priority/ncds/en/

4. **Calendar of events**

- Open day of the SAGE IVD 18 March in WHO.
- World Health Organization 72nd World Health Assembly, 20 – 28 May, Geneva, Switzerland

<https://www.who.int/world-health-assembly/seventy-first>

- Executive Board 145, 29-30 May, Geneva, Switzerland

From other organizations:

- HIMSS 2019, 11-15 February, Orlando, USA
<https://www.himssconference.org/about/general-info/about-conference>
- IMDRF 19-21 March, Moscow, Russia
<http://www.imdrf.org/meetings/meetings.asp>
- Africa Health, 28-30 May, Johannesburg, South Africa
<https://www.africahealthexhibition.com/en/home.html>
- AAMI 2019, 7-10 June, Cleveland, USA
<http://www.aami.org/events/eventdetail.aspx?ItemNumber=7295>
- HTAi, Annual Congress, 15-19 June, Cologne, Germany
<https://htai.org/annual-meetings/htai-2019-cologne/>
- CLAIB, 2-5 October, Cancun, Mexico
<http://claib.org/>
- 3rd IFMBE CED ICEHTMC, 21-22 October, Rome, Italy
<http://www.icehtmc.com/>
- World Hospital Conference (IHF), 7-9 November 2019, Oman
<https://healthmanagement.org/c/hospital/event/ihf-2019-world-hospital-congress>