

## WHO Medical Devices February 2021 Newsletter

**Dear colleagues, hoping you are  
doing well and safe, please find  
below latest information on:**

### **Oxygen, Essential in vitro diagnostics and Radiotherapy:**

#### **1. Launch of the COVID-19 Oxygen Emergency Taskforce, 25 February.**

COVID-19 oxygen emergency impacting more  
than half a million people in low- and middle-  
income countries every day, as demand surges

More information: <https://www.who.int/news/item/25-02-2021-covid-19-oxygen-emergency-impacting-more-than-half-a-million-people-in-low--and-middle-income-countries-every-day-as-demand-surges>

“Recognising the central importance of sustainable oxygen supply – alongside therapeutic products such as dexamethasone – for the treatment of COVID-19, the Access to COVID Tools Accelerator Therapeutics pillar (co-led by Unitaid and Wellcome), is taking a new role to coordinate and advocate for increased supply of oxygen, and, in partnership with a

WHO-led consortium<sup>[1]</sup>, is today announcing the launch of a **COVID-19 Oxygen Emergency Taskforce**.

It is estimated that more than half a million people in LMICs currently need 1.1 million cylinders of oxygen per day<sup>[2]</sup>, with 25 countries currently reporting surges in demand, the majority in Africa.

This supply was constrained prior to COVID-19 and has been exacerbated by the pandemic.”

“Oxygen is an essential medicine, and despite being vital for the effective treatment of hospitalised COVID-19 patients, access in LMICs is limited due to cost, infrastructure and logistical barriers.

Health facilities often cannot access the oxygen they require, resulting in the unnecessary loss of lives.”

<sup>[1]</sup> As part of the UN COVID-19 Supply Chain System, a technical biomedical procurement consortium was set up under the coordination of WHO, including ALIMA, BMGF, IMC, MSF, UNDP, UNHCR, Unicef, UNOPS, USAID and WFP.

Approximately US\$150m of oxygen related biomedical products and consumables have been delivered to 149 countries over the last year.

<sup>[2]</sup> <https://www.path.org/programs/market-dynamics/covid-19-oxygen-needs-tracker/>

<https://www.who.int/news-room/feature-stories/detail/the-life-saving-power-of-medical-oxygen>



oxygen therapy devices

More



“Oxygen is an essential medicine used to care for patients at all levels of the healthcare system, including in surgery, trauma, heart failure, asthma, pneumonia and maternal and child care”

**Related publications:** <https://www.who.int/teams/health-product-and-policy-standards/access-to-assistive-technology-medical-devices/medical-devices/oxygen>

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|---|--|--|
| <p>19 November 2020</p> <p><b>Priority medical devices list for the COVID-19 response and associated technical specifications</b></p> <p><a href="#">Download</a> <a href="#">Read More</a></p> | <p>8 June 2020</p> <p><b>Technical specifications for Pressure Swing Adsorption (PSA) Oxygen Plants</b></p> <p><a href="#">Download</a> <a href="#">Read More</a></p>      | <p>27 May 2020</p> <p><b>Clinical management of COVID-19</b></p> <p><a href="#">Download</a> <a href="#">Read More</a></p> |
| <p>4 April 2020</p> <p><b>Oxygen sources and distribution for COVID-19 treatment centres</b></p> <p><a href="#">Download</a> <a href="#">Read More</a></p>                                      | <p>14 January 2019</p> <p><b>WHO-UNICEF Technical specifications and guidance for oxygen therapy devices</b></p> <p><a href="#">Download</a> <a href="#">Read More</a></p> | <p>1 October 2016</p> <p><b>Oxygen therapy for children</b></p> <p><a href="#">Download</a> <a href="#">Read More</a></p>  |
| <p>9 September 2015</p> <p><b>WHO technical specifications for oxygen</b></p>   |  |  |

Contact: COVID-MED-DEVICES <[COVID-MED-DEVICES@who.int](mailto:COVID-MED-DEVICES@who.int)>

## 2. Launch of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Essential in vitro diagnostic list and

**On 29 January 2021, the launch of the 3<sup>rd</sup> WHO Model List of Essential in vitro Diagnostics (EDL) took place.**

The EDL provides guidance based on the latest evidence, to countries for creating or updating their national lists of essential IVDs.

Please find the new publication, infographics, brochures, [video](#) and a new [online database](#) for you, at:

[https://www.who.int/medical\\_devices/diagnostics/selection\\_in-vitro/en/](https://www.who.int/medical_devices/diagnostics/selection_in-vitro/en/)



**A diagnosis is the first step to getting effective treatment**

Discover the WHO Model List of Essential in vitro diagnostics (EDL) and improve health in your country.  
[Download infographic](#)



**WHO Model List of Essential In Vitro Diagnostics**

[eEDL beta version](#)



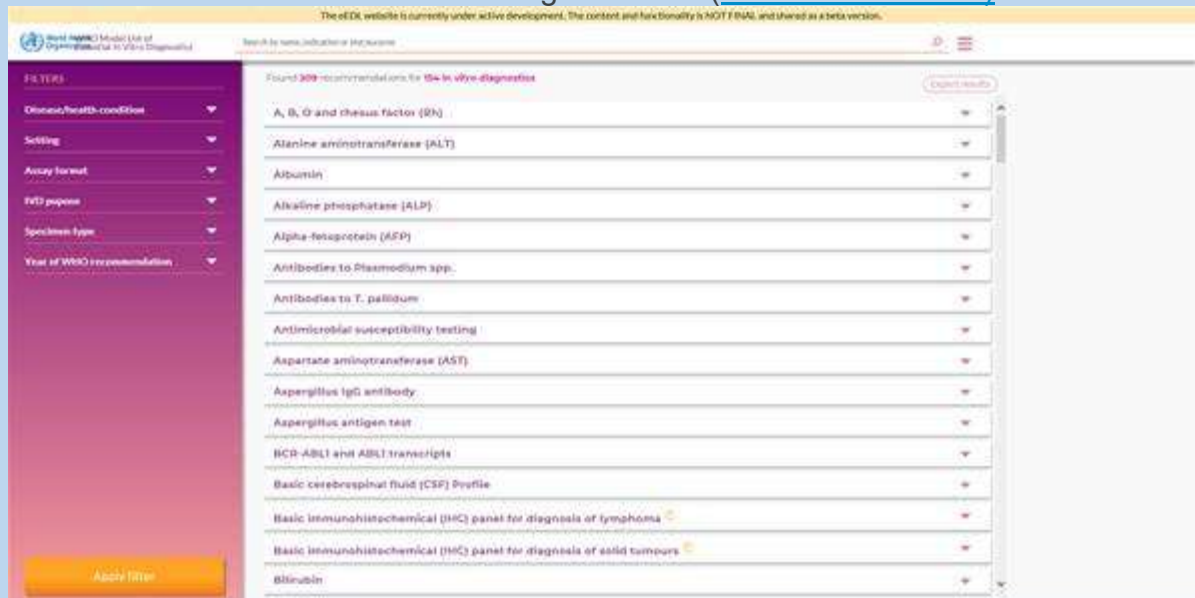
28 January 2021  
**The importance of diagnostics and the EDL**



**FEATURED PUBLICATION | 29 JANUARY**

2021 [Download](#) [Read More](#)

## Electronic Essential Diagnostic List (eEDL beta version)



## Call for experts: Strategic Advisory Group of Experts on In Vitro Diagnostics 2021 (SAGE IVD)

**Deadline: 31 March 2021**

The World Health Organization (WHO) invites highly qualified experts to submit their application to become members of the WHO Strategic Advisory Group of Experts on In Vitro Diagnostics (SAGE IVD), an advisory body to WHO on matters of global policies and strategies related to IVDs including the ones pertaining to [WHO Model List of Essential In Vitro Diagnostics](https://www.who.int/news-room/articles-detail/call-for-experts-strategic-advisory-group-of-experts-on-in-vitro-diagnostics-2021-sage-ivd). SAGE IVD members are appointed for 2 years and can be re-appointed once.

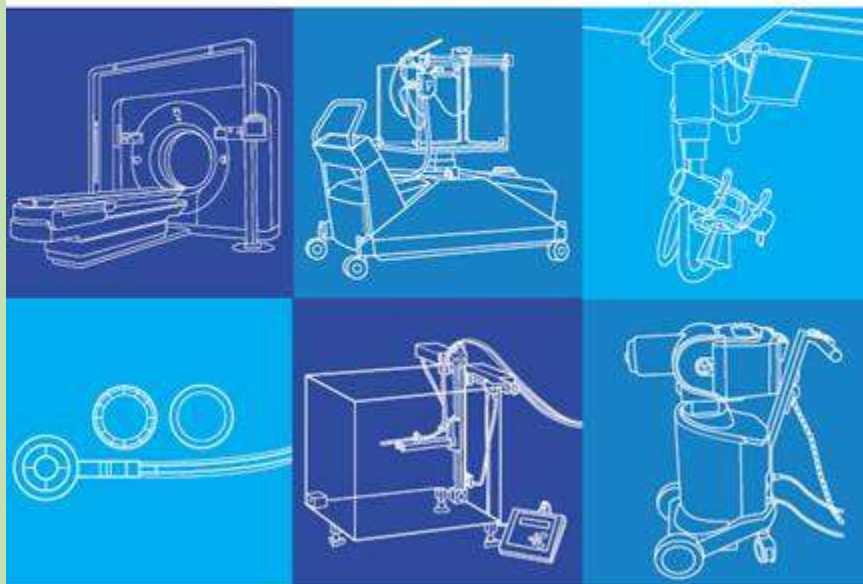
More information: <https://www.who.int/news-room/articles-detail/call-for-experts-strategic-advisory-group-of-experts-on-in-vitro-diagnostics-2021-sage-ivd>

**Information :** EDLsecretariat <[EDLsecretariat@who.int](mailto:EDLsecretariat@who.int)>

### **3. Launch of WHO IAEA joint publication: “Technical specifications for radiotherapy equipment”**

**Please join us for this virtual event to discuss the importance of radiotherapy in cancer control, current challenges and how this new publication can support countries in procurement of essential radiotherapy equipment.**

# Technical specifications of radiotherapy equipment for cancer treatment



You are invited to a Zoom webinar.

When: Friday March 5, 2021 01:30 to 2:30 PM CET ( Central European Time - Geneva)

Topic: Launch of IAEA-WHO Publication on Radiotherapy Equipment Specifications to Fight Cancer



Register in advance for this webinar:

[https://who.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_RUEhtzukQju3Yfkd0iPADQ](https://who.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_RUEhtzukQju3Yfkd0iPADQ)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

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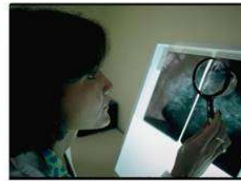
More related information on [cancer](#), [cervical cancer](#), [medical devices](#) :



Controlling Cancer



Preventing cancer



Promoting Cancer Early Diagnosis



Ensuring quality cancer treatment

#### Publications

All →



8 December 2020

**WHO framework for strengthening and scaling-up services for the management of invasive cervical cancer**

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3 February 2020

**WHO report on cancer: setting priorities, investing wisely and providing care for all**

[Download](#) [Read More](#)



29 January 2020

**Guide for establishing a pathology laboratory in the context of cancer control**

[Download](#) [Read More](#)

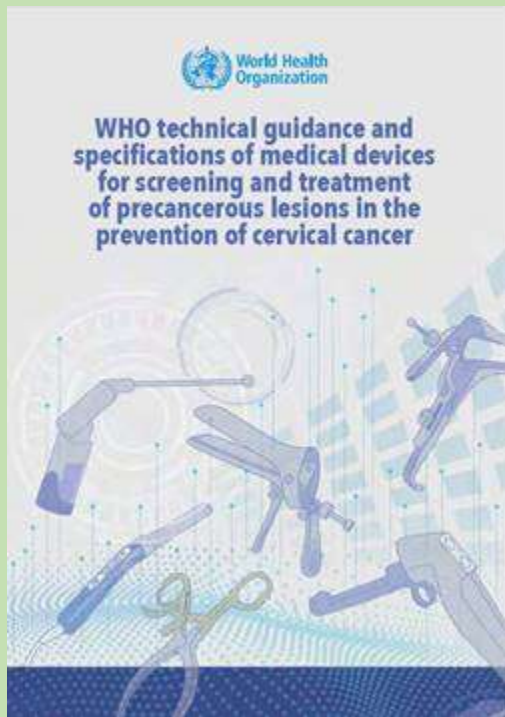


31 January 2019

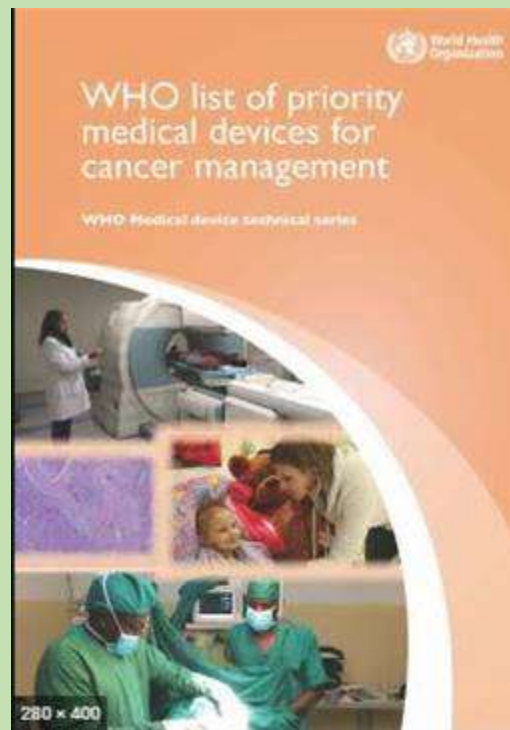
**WHO Guidelines for the pharmacological and radiotherapeutic management of cancer pain in adults and adolescents**

[Download](#) [Read More](#)





and



<https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240002630>

[https://www.who.int/medical\\_devices/publications/priority\\_med\\_dev\\_cancer\\_management/en/](https://www.who.int/medical_devices/publications/priority_med_dev_cancer_management/en/)

contact: [medicaldevices@who.int](mailto:medicaldevices@who.int)

Many thanks

Best regards

Stay safe!

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