World Health Organization

WHO Medical Devices

Newsletter January 2024

WHO Campaign on Medical Devices

In this issue you will find: our best wishes for 2024, the end of 2023 message from Dr. Tedros, a list of our publications done in 2023, the announcement of Health Technology Access Pool and the technology transfer license for a diagnostic, and finally, the invitation for the Fair Pricing Forum 2024.

The WHO Medical Devices and In Vitro Diagnostics Team wishes you a happy, prosperous, and healthy 2024!

Get to know us!

We are Adriana Velazquez Berumen, Francis Mousky, Ana Aznwn Capri and Daniela Rodriguez Rodriguez, the WHO Medical Devices and In Vitro diagnostics team, MDD for short.

WHO Director-General Dr Tedros end of 2023 message: Keeping the hope for health alive

Please find a summary of the speech below or watch it online.

"In 2023, global health celebrated milestones amidst challenges. We bid farewell to COVID-19 as a public health emergency and saw the end of the M-POX outbreak. New vaccines emerged, and countries like Azerbaijan and Belize triumphed over malaria. And let's not forget the tremendous strides in combating polio and cervical cancer. Thirty more countries embraced the HPV vaccine, paving the way for a future free of cervical cancer.

In 2023, we elevated the imperative to address the health impacts of the climate crisis, placing health at the forefront of the COP28 agenda. Our voices, united with governments, scientists, and advocates, rang loud and clear in a global declaration on climate and health.

As WHO marked 75 years of service, we extend our gratitude to health workers, partners, and WHO colleagues, on our shared journey to achieve Health for All. Amidst conflicts and crises, our dedication to health peace and prosperity remains unwavering. Without peace, there is no health, and without health there can be no peace. As we step into 2024, let's continue our quest for a healthier, happier world."

WHO Medical Devices and In Vitro Diagnostics Publications in 2023

Please find below the list of the publications released by the MDD team in 2023.

Medical Devices

Technical specifications for pre-market assessment of medical masks (2023)

Technical specifications for pre-market assessment of blood pressure measuring device without, automated and semi-automated (2023)

Sustainable management of radiotherapy facilities and equipment (2023)

In Vitro Diagnostics

The selection and use of essential in vitro diagnostics: report of the fourth meeting of the WHO Strategic Advisory Group of Experts on In Vitro Diagnostics, 2023 (including the fourth WHO model list of essential in vitro diagnostics). (2023)

Target product profile for readers of rapid diagnostic tests (2023)

31 January: WHO introduces the Health Technology Access Pool

The World Health Organization (WHO) announces the Health Technology Access Pool (HTAP) as the successor to the COVID-19 Technology Access Pool (C-TAP).

HTAP will promote access to health products that respond to public health priorities including pandemic preparedness and self-reliance during and outside health emergencies. This approach will amplify the public health value of HTAP investments as well as the attractiveness of licensed technologies to recipient manufacturers by enabling greater market opportunities and financial sustainability.

WHO and MPP announce technology transfer license to enable greater patient access to multiple essential diagnostics

The transparent, non-exclusive license agreement enables the manufacture of diagnostics for COVID-19 as well as other diseases such as HIV, malaria and syphilis.

WHO and the Medicines Patent Pool (MPP) announce a licence agreement with SD Biosensor Inc., a global in vitro diagnostic company, to provide stakeholders with the right, know-how and material to manufacture SGM's rapid diagnostic testing (RDT) technology. The transparent, non-exclusive licence agreement, negotiated under the auspices of the COVID-19 Technology Access Pool (C-TAP), represents an important milestone in the evolution of the C-TAP initiative. Read more, access to the WHO press release.

The World Health Organization (WHO) is organizing the 2024 Fair Pricing Forum

In 2019, the World Health Assembly adopted Resolution WHA 72.8 on Improving the transparency of markets for medicines, vaccines, and other health products.

This meeting is the fourth forum that focuses on improving access to medicines and health products through fair pricing.

This event will take place virtually, from 10:00 to 14:00 (UTC) on the 8 February 2024. Attendees will have the opportunity to discuss and share information on the affordability of medical devices and in vitro diagnostics by bridging the information gap and complexity. Find out more and register for more information.

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