

WHO Medical Devices Newsletter, June 2019



1. 145th Session of the Executive Board

The 145th Session of the Executive Board took place at WHO headquarters, Geneva, 29 and 30 May 2019.

The agenda of the EB included discussion on Nomenclature, classification and coding of medical devices. You can access the [WHO report on the Standardization of nomenclature](#)

WHO proposed that a standardized classification and nomenclature of medical devices would serve as a common language for recording and reporting medical devices across the whole health system at all levels of health care for a whole range of uses. Owing to rapid scientific and technological development, more than 10,000 types of medical devices now exist but no common name is harmonized to describe the devices by industry, regulators, procurers and final users in hospitals or by patients.

The session was all recorded and live streaming. You are most welcome to watch and listen to the important discussion and the requests from Member States, [here](#),

1. the statement by Director General is in minute 21:29-22:22 and
2. the statements by Member States members of the Executive Board are from 1:03:47 to 2:04:25.

In the opening speech, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director General, emphasized the importance of standardized nomenclature;

'Developing and adapting a global standard for naming medical devices is a perfect example of WHO's core normative standard-setting work.'

Assistant Director General: "Maria Angela Simao stated: "...finally the goal is to move towards convergence and harmonization"

As indicated by Dr Nakatani, chair of the Executive Board, the next steps are: "Member State consultation and present a report to the next Executive Board session 146th that will take place in January 2020"

WHO secretariat will proceed accordingly.

More information on nomenclature, classification, and coding can be found [here](#).

2. 72th Session of the WHO World Health Assembly (WHA72)

The [World Health Assembly took place in Geneva, Switzerland 20–28 May 2019](#).

Several topics related to medical technologies have been discussed, including:

- [Access to medicines and vaccines](#)

Concerned about the high prices for medicines, vaccines, medical devices including in vitro diagnostic tests and assistive devices, and the unequal access, the WHO member states adopted a resolution to urges the countries to publicly share information on the prices of health products, support access to costs of clinical trials (regardless of outcomes), and work collaboratively to improve the reporting of information by suppliers on registered health products.

You can read the full text of the PROPOSED resolution on [Improving the transparency of markets for medicines, vaccines, and other health products](#).

- [Patient safety](#)

WHA72 recognized patient safety as a global health priority and adopted the WHA Resolution on global action on patient safety, including establishment of annual [#WorldPatientSafetyDay](#) on the 17th September.

Many any of the WHA sessions have been recorded and are [available to watch](#). The full text of [the resolution](#)s will be made available in due course.

3. Technical advisory group on Digital Health

WHO is establishing [a global multi-disciplinary technical group](#) to advise us on issues related to digital health.

Members of the technical advisory group will have an understanding and experience working in digital health, national or large scale digital health programs and policy, artificial intelligence and health, virtual and augmented reality in healthcare, biomedical innovation, robotic surgery, wearable technologies and health and wellness, traceability (e.g. blockchain) and health, ethics, governance and security in healthcare ecosystem with focus on digital health, health economics with focus on digital health and health law with focus on digital health technologies.

4. Launch of WHO Health Product Profile Directory

WHO's new Science Division launched a free-to-use online resource to guide the development of new health products for which there are limited markets or incentives for research and development.

An essential tool for realizing universal health coverage, the [Health Product Profile Directory](#) provides a searchable database of profiles for health products needed to tackle pressing health issues in global health including those prioritized by WHO. Building in these characteristics at an early stage of the development process is essential to ensure that the final products will be accessible to the populations that need them.

Read more about the Product Profile Directory [here](#).

5. Careers at WHO

[WHO Internship programme](#)

[New positions under recruitment by WHO](#)

6. Calendar of events

[Health Technology Assessment International \(HTAi\) Annual Congress](#), 15-19 June 2019, Cologne, Germany

[The Global Anaesthesia, Surgical and Obstetric Collaboration \(GASOC\) Annual Conference 2019 #GlobalMedTech](#), 14th September 2019, Leeds, UK

[VIII Congreso Latinoamericano de Ingeniería Biomédica \(CLAIB 2019\)](#), 2-5 October 2019, Cancun, Mexico

Phase 2 registration deadline: 31st July 2019

[International Clinical Engineering and Health Technology Management Congress 2019](#), 21-22 October 2019, Rome, Italy

Phase 2 registration deadline: 31st August 2019

[IHF 43rd World Hospital Congress 2019](#), 7-9 November 2019, Muscat, Oman

Early Birth registration deadline: 15th August 2019

Best regards,

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and

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