

WHO Medical Devices October 2020 Newsletter

Dear colleagues,

We wish you and your families are doing well. As we see the numbers of COVID increasing again, please stay safe!

And share knowledge, evidence and guidance with others. Wear your masks! Take care of your families and of yourself!



Please find the 3 sections: **Information and guidance**; **2. Surveys and events**; **3. Open vacancies or consultations**.

• For information COVID-19 medical devices:

Director General of WHO addresses the need to increase access to oxygen and comments on the participation of biomedical engineers: you can listen:

<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019> Dr Mike Ryan also comments on the multidisciplinary professionals to tackle COVID-19, including engineers.



Read the full speech at: <https://www.who.int/director-general/speeches/detail/who-director-general-s-opening-remarks-at-the-media-briefing-on-covid-19---23-october-2020>

WHO Director-General's opening remarks at the media briefing on COVID-19 - 23 October 2020

23 October 2020

- *We are at a critical juncture in this pandemic, particularly in the northern hemisphere. The next few months are going to be very tough and some countries are on a dangerous track. We urge leaders to take immediate action, to prevent further unnecessary deaths, essential health services from collapsing and schools shutting again.*
- *Oxygen is one of the most essential medicines for saving patients with COVID-19, and many other conditions. WHO is committed to working in solidarity with all governments, partners and the private sector to scale up sustainable oxygen supply.*
- *Tomorrow marks World Polio Day week, and partners around the world – led in particular by Rotary International – are organising events and raising awareness about the need to eradicate polio.*

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“Oxygen is one of the most essential medicines for saving patients with COVID-19, and many other conditions. Many countries simply do not have enough oxygen available to assist sick patients as they struggle to breathe.

Estimates suggest that some of the poorest countries may have just 5 to 20 percent of the oxygen that they need for patient care. Through the pandemic, the demand for oxygen has grown exponentially...

As daily cases rise around the world to over 400 thousand, the need for oxygen has gone up to 1.2 million cylinders each day, just in low- and middle-income alone, which is 13 times higher...

And to be successful the health work force needs to be ready. Not only doctors and nurses with experience in caring for severely ill patients; but also biomedical engineers, respiratory therapists, and maintenance staff.

Oxygen saves lives of patients with COVID-19 but it will also save some of the 800 thousand children under-five that die every year of pneumonia and improve the overall safety of surgery.”

A better world means ensuring oxygen is available for all. Where they need it, and when they need it.

Important pages (*these continue to be updated every month*):

- https://www.who.int/medical_devices/priority/COVID-19/en/ this page includes information related to essential supplies, treatment centers and the emergency supply system and catalogue.
- [Clinical Management of COVID-19](#)
- [https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/home-care-for-patients-with-suspected-novel-coronavirus-\(ncov\)-infection-presenting-with-mild-symptoms-and-management-of-contacts](https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/home-care-for-patients-with-suspected-novel-coronavirus-(ncov)-infection-presenting-with-mild-symptoms-and-management-of-contacts)
- <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/technical-guidance-publications> for all technical guidance on COVID-19 and select from dropdown menu the topic you are searching for. These pages are also in various languages:

1. On medical equipment:

- https://www.who.int/medical_devices/priority/COVID-19_medequipment/en/
 - All of the following will be chapters of a large book, which is in publication final approval process, nevertheless it can be found here as **draft (version 23 October 2020)**
 - Introduction: WHO Priority medical devices list for COVID-19 response
 - Chapter 2: List of Priority Medical Devices for COVID-19
 - Chapter 3: Technical specifications for oxygen therapy and monitoring devices
 - Chapter 4: Technical specifications for invasive and non-invasive ventilators
 - Chapter 5: Technical specifications for infusion devices**
 - Chapter 6: Technical specifications for complementary medical equipment to support COVID-19 management
 - Chapter 7: Technical specifications for airway and ICU consumables and single-use medical devices
 - Chapter 8: Technical specifications for imaging devices
 - Table including the products assessed by WHO for the pandemic global supply can also be found [here](#).

2. On the Personal protective equipment ,

- https://www.who.int/medical_devices/priority/COVID_19_PPE/en/
- Technical specifications for personal protective equipment and related infection prevention and control supplies can be find below.
- [COVID-19 Technical Specifications for personal protective equipment, list of standards and checklists. \(final draft August 2020\) docx, 158kb](#)
- On the use of masks: [https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/advice-on-the-use-of-masks-in-the-community-during-home-care-and-in-healthcare-settings-in-the-context-of-the-novel-coronavirus-\(2019-ncov\)-outbreak](https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/advice-on-the-use-of-masks-in-the-community-during-home-care-and-in-healthcare-settings-in-the-context-of-the-novel-coronavirus-(2019-ncov)-outbreak)
- Use of masks for children: https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/WHO-2019-nCoV-IPC_Masks-Children-2020.1

3. On in-vitro diagnostics,

- Information about emergency use listing, please consult: (these list includes PCR tests as well as the first 2 antigen rapid test approved recently)
https://www.who.int/diagnostics_laboratory/EUL/en/
- Antigen-detection in the diagnosis of SARS-CoV-2 infection using rapid immunoassays
<https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/antigen-detection-in-the-diagnosis-of-sars-cov-2infection-using-rapid-immunoassays> (11 September)
- <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/laboratory-assessment-tool-for-laboratories-implementing-covid-19-virus-testing> (23 October 2020)
- On Laboratories and diagnostics, documents can be found [here](#)

4. On the role of imaging diagnostics, (now available in 7 languages).

- You can find the role of ultrasound, chest X rays and CT scanners, here.
- <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/use-of-chest-imaging-in-covid-19>

5. The Emergency Global Supply catalogue. Updated 13 October 2020.

- [https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/emergency-global-supply-chain-system-\(covid-19\)-catalogue](https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/emergency-global-supply-chain-system-(covid-19)-catalogue)

2. Welcome your action on facility survey, country survey and on-line training:

2.1 Facility Surveys for biomedical equipment and oxygen supply required to manage COVID-19 and other diseases.

You can use this tool to complete your inventory, then use it to define the gaps of equipment or oxygen sources. The data is owned by the facility and will help do benchmarking, national assessments and to define your needs. If approved by the submitter, will be made public. <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/WHO-2019-nCov-biomedical-equipment-inventory-2020.1>

then the electronic survey can be found:

https://o2therapy.surveyccto.com/collect/who_covid_oxygen_therapy_scto_open?caseid=

Username:biomedequipment Password: facilityoxygen20

2.2 Country profiles - Global atlas of medical devices (2020 update to be collected November December 2020!)

Global Atlas of medical devices book provides the global, regional and country data particularly on the availability of specific medical devices, policies, guidelines, standards and services.

Please kindly update your country's information for the Global Atlas on medical devices, so that the information is actual. Steps:

1. Go to https://www.who.int/medical_devices/countries/en/

2. Search for your country in the word version:

[Atlas Word document to update your country profile \[Word, 4.62mb\]](#)

3. Related links:

- [WHO Global Atlas of medical devices , 2017 \[pdf, 11.63mb\]](#)

- [Country profiles - Medical devices regulatory systems at country level](#)

- [Global Health Observatory \(GHO\) interactive maps on medical devices](#)

- [Global health observatory, data repository](#)

Ministries of Health of Member States will be contacted in November to provide updated information. Also MOH can send requests or changes to medicaldevices@who.int as needed before 30 NOVEMBER 2020.

2.3 Training and learning.

<https://openwho.org/> "OpenWHO is WHO's interactive, web-based, knowledge-transfer platform offering online courses to improve the response to health emergencies. OpenWHO enables the Organization and its key partners to transfer life-saving knowledge to large numbers of frontline responders."

<https://www.who.int/about/who-academy/> "With COVID-19 science now doubling every 20 days and new guidance being published daily by WHO, the WHO Academy continues to improve its COVID - 19 mobile learning app so that health workers can keep up with the constantly evolving knowledge related to this disease."

2.4 Innovation

WHO https://www.who.int/medical_devices/priority/COVID-19_innovations/en/

WHO will be assessing all innovations submitted and those submitted in November, for inclusion on the WHO Compendium of innovative technologies for low resource settings. Please submit your prototypes or commercially available products of you consider they are important innovations that might support patient care or health care workers protection, specially in limited resource infrastructure.

3. Short term consultancies and staff vacancies

For consultants:

Professional background: Biomedical/Clinical engineering for medical equipment and in vitro diagnostics; materials/ textile engineer or related disciplines for PPE. Lawyers on intellectual property and technology transfer. Technology innovation.

Experience: more than 5 years' professional experience.

Knowledge: Of medical equipment, personal protective equipment and/ or in vitro diagnostics: standards, quality, regulatory approvals, manufacturing practices, testing protocols. Other topics: unique device identifier, inventories, maintenance, safety, production

Timeline requested 2 months: 1 November to 30th December. No need to travel outside own country.

When submitting your CV please state for which specific activity, using the reference number. *(These reference numbers are the same as last month but some +10 consultants have been already selected and hired for other projects no longer listed below).*

If interested, Please send email to medicaldevices@who.int before 27th October indicating the reference number of your application and add your CV.

Thank you!

Reference number	Activities	Comments
3.4	Global guidance on Local production of personal protective equipment	
3.5	Global guidance on Local production of medical equipment	
3.6	Global guidance on Oxygen supply costs and delivery	
3.9	Global guidance on Personal protective equipment: standards and quality assurance	



<p>3.2 Country support</p>	<p>Country/ regional support: locally recruited:</p> <p>To:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. support facility assessments of biomedical equipment including oxygen sources, (inventory survey listed above) b. follow up for training of new medical equipment c. evaluate innovative technologies in the setting d. consolidate information on donated equipment status e. support the provision of country information <i>for any of the surveys mentioned section 2 above</i> f. provide information for local production of medical devices including personal protective equipment g. provide input for operational research on medical devices h. disseminate locally WHO information on medical devices, as needed. <p><i>(when you send your CVs please state which if these tasks (a to g) you have expertise)</i></p>	<p>WHO Regional offices : Brazzaville, Manila , Cairo, New Delhi</p> <p>Examples of countries:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Afghanistan Burkina Faso Burundi Cameroon Central African Republic Chad Comoros Congo, Dem. Rep. Congo, Rep. Eritrea Gambia, The Guinea-Bissau Haiti Kiribati Liberia Libya Mali Marshall Islands Micronesia, Fed. Sts. Myanmar Niger Papua New Guinea Solomon Islands Somalia South Sudan Sudan Syrian Arab Republic Timor-Leste Tuvalu Venezuela, RB Yemen, Rep. Zimbabwe
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For Staff position for Unit head of assistive and medical technologies.

[Unit Head - \(2004068\)](#)

Grade: P6

Contractual Arrangement: Fixed-term appointment

Contract Duration (Years, Months, Days): One year

Job Posting : Oct 20, 2020, 12:38:53 PM

Closing Date : Nov 10, 2020, 11:59:00 PM

Primary Location : Switzerland-Geneva

Organization : HQ/HPS Health Product Policy and Standards

Schedule : Full-time

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS

Education Essential: An advanced university degree in Medicine, Pharmacy, Public Health, Rehabilitation Science or Engineering, Biomedical Engineering related to the functions of the position.

Desirable: A PhD in one of the above-mentioned fields.

Experience Essential: A minimum of 15 years of professional experience in the management of Assisted Technology and Medical Devices,

Other vacancies: <https://careers.who.int/careersection/ex/jobsearch.ftl>

Many thanks!

Stay safe.

Best regards

Let's remember the importance of increasing access to affordable, appropriate, good quality medical devices, especially for those that need them the most!

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