

List of Priority Medical Devices in the context of COVID-19

Methodology

Introduction

WHO and PAHO issued documents with recommendations on the necessary medical devices (MDs) in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. These were analyzed and opportunities for improvement were identified with regard to differences between lists, omitted MDs, technical specifications, format adaptation and classification of MDs by levels of care.

Methodology

The recommendations issued by WHO and PAHO in the following technical documents were analyzed in depth and compared:

- PAHO. *Technical specifications of medical devices for the case management of COVID-19 in healthcare settings*, version 4 March 2020
- PAHO. *Requirements and technical specifications of personal protective equipment (PPE) for the novel coronavirus (2019-ncov) in healthcare settings*, version 6 February 2020
- WHO. *Disease Commodity Packages COVID-19 v4*, version 6 March 2020
- WHO. *Clinical management of severe acute respiratory infection (SARI) when COVID-19 disease is suspected*, version 13 March 2020

This work was carried out by a multidisciplinary team of 16 experts (bioengineers, intensive care specialists, adult and pediatric pulmonologists) who serve in ministries of health and high-complexity hospitals in the Region of the Americas.

Their comments on each document were collected in an Excel spreadsheet and summarized. When preparing the list, consensus was sought among the experts.

The final results were analyzed by technical advisors from PAHO's Medicines and Health Technologies Unit and the Infectious Hazard Management Unit (Public Health Emergencies).