

PAHO



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Better Care
for NCDs

Accelerating Actions in Primary Health Care

Better Care for NCDs Initiative: **Recommended actions** **for healthcare managers** **by strategic area**



This document presents a set of recommended **actions for health managers at the national and local levels**, organized into the six strategic areas of the Better Care for NCDs Initiative. Its goal is to support the planning, implementation, and monitoring of priority interventions to strengthen the management of NCDs in primary health care (PHC).

This brochure complements the Implementation Guide for the Better Care for NCDs Initiative.



Strategic area 1: National operational plans to scale up comprehensive NCD services in PHC

- Form the interprogrammatic working group (IPWG).
- Select the initial IHSDNs.
- Conduct a needs and gaps analysis, with a focus on equity and including telemedicine and digital solutions, in each selected territory.
- Develop a national operational plan for implementation.
- Implement strategies to expand and scale up into other integrated health service delivery networks (IHSDNs).
- Coordinate interprogrammatic missions and workshops to support the various phases of implementation.
- Establish mechanisms for periodic evaluation.



Strategic area 2: Community outreach and engagement in NCD services, with a focus on equity

- Plan and design strategies to reach remote and underserved populations.
- Strengthen coordination with community organizations and local leaders.
- Incorporate initiatives to promote healthy lifestyles.
- Promote self-care and education on NCDs in the community.
- Implement community-based monitoring mechanisms to promote continuity of care.
- Incorporate community health workers into strategies for early diagnosis and adherence to treatment.



Strategic area 3: Normative guidance and quality of care improvement

- Develop, adapt, and/or update guidelines based on the definition of clinical care pathways, as well as tools and strategies to improve quality, ensuring continuous improvement.
- Define clinical performance indicators.
- Implement clinical pathways using a variety of strategies, including tools for the healthcare team.
- Promote clinical audits and provide regular feedback to the healthcare team.



Strategic area 4: Primary health care workforce development for NCDs

Conduct an assessment of the available workforce.

Identify skill gaps within healthcare teams.

Develop a plan for the establishment and distribution of interprofessional PHC teams.

Conduct periodic monitoring.

- Design a capacity-building plan using the Initiative's Learning Pathway (LP) and promoting the distribution of tasks within the PHC health team. The LP can be adapted based on competencies and target audiences.

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Strategic area 5: Expansion of essential NCD medicines and technologies

- Design and/or adapt medication and technology packages for PHC.
- Strengthen procurement and distribution systems, using the PAHO Strategic Fund.

- Monitor availability and stockouts.
- Implement quality assurance systems.

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Strategic area 6: Improvement of NCD information and monitoring

- Improve data architecture and interoperability.
- Computerize medical and other records.
- Implement systems to track patients with NCDs using alerts and reminders for the healthcare team.
- Integrate key NCD indicators into the national and subnational systems.

- Generate periodic reports at the local, subnational, and national levels.
- Incorporate health education messages and clinical reminders for patients into follow-up care.
- Implement data feedback mechanisms to support continuous improvement.

These measures will help to:



Increase the proportion of people who are screened, diagnosed, treated, and monitored for NCDs.



Reduce the rates of complications due to poorly controlled NCD conditions.



Reduce preventable hospitalizations.



Reduce premature mortality rates.



Improve the quality of life of people with NCDs.



Access the Implementation Guide for the Better Care for NCDs Initiative, including all related resources, **here**.

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