

WHO Update Column

By Adriana Velazquez Berumen



In the midst of the novel coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic, today, more than ever, medical devices are indispensable to save lives. Furthermore, clinical engineers, healthcare technology managers and biomedical engineering technicians are important in the resourcing, equipping and sustainment of medical devices supporting life sustaining treatments.

The WHO has published a wide range of Covid-19 information and resources which are consolidated in the technical guidance page <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/technical-guidance>.

The Priority Medical Devices for COVID-19, as well as the respective catalogue and technical specifications and a surge calculator to assist in planning for care provisions including the priority medical devices for Covid-19 which can be found at <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/technical-guidance/covid-19-critical-items>.

As we continue to learn more and our global understanding of the virology of covid-19 continues to evolve, In Vitro Diagnostics and medical equipment facilitating laboratory testing will be essential to identifying cases, taking proactive measures and reducing the impact of the disease until further measures can be achieved.

The WHO has created an emergency use listing that is updated each week to expand capability which can be found at https://www.who.int/diagnostics_laboratory/EUL/en/. Additionally, the WHO is leading an effort to facilitate a functioning global supply chain during the pandemic via a public-private collaboration. Further information can be found at <https://www.weforum.org/projects/pandemic-supply-chain-network-pscn> regarding this effort.

The International Federation of Medical and Biological Engineers' Clinical Engineering Division (IFMBE-CED) has also worked to consolidate Covid-19 guidance from clinical engineers and healthcare technology management professionals globally via their Covid-19 Resource Center that can be found at <https://ced.ifmbe.org/blog/covid19-resources.html>. Additionally, I was honored to work with healthcare technology management professionals globally and partake in the Global CE Covid-19 Day hosted by IFMBE-CED on April 9, 2020.

The link to the recording of the presentation can be found at <https://youtu.be/oVi4XFcJLBE>. I will continue to provide additional information regarding Covid-19 in the WHO Medical Devices Newsletter and blogs for IFMBE-CED which can be found at <https://ced.ifmbe.org/blog.html>.



Thank you for all you are doing on the front line to implement, innovate and maintain medical devices and technology during this dynamic time. The world, more than ever, needs clinical engineer's technical knowledge, entrepreneurial and innovative spirit, know-how and empathy to ensure the wellbeing of patients around the globe.

Please stay safe, remember your PPE and wash your hands!

Regards,

Adriana Velazquez

Copyright © 2021. This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License (CC BY): *Creative Commons - Attribution 4.0 International - CC BY 4.0*. The use, distribution or reproduction in other forums is permitted, provided the original author(s) and the copyright owner(s) are credited and that the original publication in this journal is cited, in accordance with accepted academic practice. No use, distribution or reproduction is permitted which does not comply with these terms.