

Standardization of medical devices nomenclature

Agenda Item 13.7

The International Alliance of Patients Organizations welcomes the Director Generals reports EB148/1, A74/9 and EB145/3 on standardization of medical devices nomenclature.

IAPO concurs that we must have an international classification, coding, and nomenclature for medical devices (INMD) made available to all Member States and their patient communities as this will support patient safety and the WHO Global Patient Safety Action Plan 2021-2030.

The INMD must be co-created with the patients, health professionals and industry stakeholders and work with the grain of the existing nomenclature systems like Global Medical Device Nomenclature (GMDN) and the International Medical Devices Regulators Forum to develop a harmonized approach.

Modern clinical practice increasingly relies on medical devices and a robust INMD will ensure that health systems procure the right high quality medical devices using a standard INMD in the procurement specifications and improve access to universal health coverage 2030.

INMD is one of the corner stone of digital health, personalised healthcare, and precision oncology as they all require procurement of medical devices that are safe and of high quality giving real time, reliable and accurate data. INMD can improve patient outcomes and experience.

In low- and middle-income countries, where there is a shortage of trained health workers, remotely connected and artificial intelligence and machine learning enabled medical devices will improve supervisory oversight and access to health care services in hard-to-reach areas. This connectivity and AI/ machine learning can improve knowledge and access of health workers and communities to health information.

Lastly, IAPO is asking the WHO and Member States as they look at the INMD, they also take a fresh look at separating medical devices regulation from medicines regulation. Modern AI and machine learning enabled medical devices have complex electronics, algorithms and connectivity needing new skills.