WHO Clinical operations for COVID-19: Therapeutics and oxygen

Member state briefing, 5 August 2021
Last briefing 17 June 2021
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WHO, Health Emergencies Programme
Comprehensive, multi-disciplinary, holistic: from triage through recovery

- **Staff**: multi-disciplinary, trained, safe, outpatient, inpatient
- **Structures**: patient flow, ventilation, IPC controls
- **Supplies**: medicines, biomedical equipment
- **Systems**: home care, community care, referral paths
- **Study**: clinical characterization, clinical trials,
- **Standards**: guidelines, tools,
Therapeutics and COVID-19

New strong recommendation for use of IL6-receptor blockers for patients with severe/critical COVID-19 (tocilizumab, sarilumab)
- Immunomodulator function
- Reduction in mortality and need for mechanical ventilation
- Benefit additive to oxygen + steroids.

Access Update: IL6 Receptor Blockers
- High Interest in LMIC to procure and integrate new treatment recommendation into national protocols
- Estimate 50 countries without regulatory approval for known indication of rheumatoid arthritis
- Market remains constrained in availability and price of product
- Negotiations on price, availability and regulatory processes underway with pharmaceutical companies with the aim to develop demand-based forecast and supply chain

In pipeline:
REGN-COV2 (casirivimab/imdevimab), to publish within 3-4 weeks
--anticoagulants, con plasma,
Research and innovation: O2CoV2 respiratory observational research study

- **Full title:** Oxygen requirements and approaches to respiratory support in patients with COVID-19 in low- and middle-income countries

- **179 Expressions of Interest (EOI)** received from **51 countries** from all WHO regions; minimum target of 5 countries per region met

- Steering committee meet 28 July 2021 and **site selection completed**. Total of 5 countries per region selected, and at least 2 sites per country.

- On-boarding to begin in September 2021.

[Map showing the distribution of countries participating in the study.]

covidrespstudy@who.int
Clinical features and prognostic factors for COVID-19 in people living with HIV hospitalized with suspected or confirmed SARS-CoV2 infection

- In this hospitalized population, PLHIV were at increased risk of severe or critical disease at hospital admission (aOR 1.06, 95% CI 1.02–1.11) compared to HIV-negative individuals, after adjusting for age, sex and the presence of underlying conditions (diabetes, tuberculosis, malignant neoplasms and chronic cardiac and pulmonary diseases).
### Capacity building for health work force: biomedical and clinical

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Step 1</th>
<th>Step 2</th>
<th>Step 3</th>
<th>Step 4a</th>
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<th>Step 5</th>
<th>Step 6</th>
<th>Step 7</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Selecting the right medical equipment</td>
<td>Getting the equipment ready (set up, installing and testing)</td>
<td>Clinically using the equipment (patient care)</td>
<td>Decontamination of consumables and equipment (cleaning, disinfection and sterilization)</td>
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<td>Corrective maintenance of the equipment</td>
<td>Preventative maintenance of the equipment</td>
<td>Decommissioning of the equipment</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| In progress | 1. Pulse oximeter  
2. Patient monitor  
3. Oxygen cylinder  
4. High Flow Nasal Cannula  
5. CPAP and BiPAP  
6. Mechanical ventilator | In progress | In progress | In progress | In progress | In progress | In progress |

**First 6 training videos posted on YouTube**

[OpenWHO.org](https://openwho.org) course development underway

[World Health Organization](https://www.who.int)  
[Oxygen Access Scale Up (who.int)](https://www.who.int)
Country support for COVID-19: oxygen technical and operations

WHO Oxygen Country Support

Data Source: World Health Organization, Map Production: WHO Health Emergencies Programme

Not applicable

0 3,000 6,000 km

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Country Support: Increasing local capacity and technical support

SEARO, Indonesia, Bangladesh, Nepal:
- Recruitment of Biomedical Engineer - requested

AFRO, DRC, Chad, Benin, Guinea Bissau, Mauritania:
- Recruitment of Biomedical Engineer - done

WPRO:
- Recruitment of Biomedical Engineer - requested

EURO, Moldova, Ukraine:
- Recruitment of Biomedical Engineer - requested
- Recruitment of OSL requested - requested

EMRO, Tunisia, Afghanistan:
- Recruitment of Biomedical Engineer - requested

Assessment → Analysis → Solution option development → Finalizing decision → Funding & Implementation → Monitoring & Evaluation → Training
Partnerships and coordination: oxygen technical cooperation, biomedical consortium, ACT-A emergency oxygen task force

GF eligible Countries with financial allocations 2020-2022 with at least one identified TA partner