

EVOLUTION OF HEALTH TECHNOLOGY MANAGEMENT IN REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

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The Medical Device Management (MDM) has become a priority in health policy of many countries, many studies proving that through coherent policies in this field the ratio cost / effectiveness of using the advanced medical technologies has been improved, the patient safety and the quality of medical care have increased. The level of providing the medical institutions with medical devices and advanced /modern equipment and of ensuring an adequate level of professionalism of the medical staff are key tools for proper functioning of the health system and have a direct impact on the functional effectiveness of the system, the quality of service and the degree of the beneficiary's satisfaction.

Currently the health system in Moldova includes 426 public medical institutions (61 hospitals with 18803 beds), 14 private hospitals and 595 outpatient private enterprises, where 13012 doctors and 24602 medical trained staff that finished a high school work, In 2015 the amount of the financial resources accounted was about 7 bln 559 mln lei (322 mln euros), an increase by approximately 9.4% comparing to 2014. In the current economic crisis, the health system makes it difficult to ensure adequate access to qualitative healthcare services.

Limited financial resources on the one hand, and the increasing demands from the professionals from the field, concerning the use of advanced medical devices, as well as those of the population requiring quality, on the other hand, make the existing needs be covered only partially. The share of the national public health budget expenditure is steadily increasing and the cost of medical devices is increasing at the same time, while the requirements and possibilities for their practical assessment of quality and safety lack.

The Medical Technology Management started in Moldova in 2008 through projects Moldovan-Swiss Perinatal System Modernization (PERINAT) and Regionalization of the Pediatric Emergency and Intensive Care (REPEMOL), funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation. At the first stage the assessment of the situation on Medical Technology Management in 5 pilot-hospitals was carried out and pilot-model forms were developed concerning the Medical Technology Management.

With the support of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation through projects all the existing procedures were analyzed related to MDM at the hospital level, the required set of procedures was defined and the model of procedures for management and administration of the Medical Devices and Information System MDM openMEDIS (SIMDM openMEDIS) was developed that were initially implemented in five pilot medical institutions. MDM assessment results at the level of medical institution proved the positive impact on the effective use of medical devices, reducing costs of maintaining medical devices through internal appropriate services in a timely manner, increasing the cost - effectiveness and safety of medical care.

Since 2005, at the insistence of the Ministry of Health and the Technical University of Moldova the specialty "Biomedical Systems Engineering" was included in the Nomenclature of fields and specialties in higher education, which provides fundamental training and skilled specialists in the biomedical engineering strictly necessary for the Republic of Moldova and since 2010 Master's degree courses have been held in the specialty "Biomedical Engineering". Recently, the professions of biomedical engineer and clinical engineer have been included in the Classification of

Occupations in the Republic of Moldova, but they are not provided by the medical personnel standards of medical institutions.

In the Republic of Moldova the Law on medical devices (no. 92 / 26.4.12) is adopted, which aims to adjust the legal framework of the Republic of Moldova to the acquis community for the implementation of the European standards in the field of medical devices and medical services consumer protection offered by the application of the medical devices. The Law provides definitions under the European Directives to implement medical devices, stipulates that medical devices may be placed on the market, put into service or used only if they are certified and registered so as not to have a negative impact on the safety and health of patients, users, other people and the environment.

The Ministry of Health has the power to develop and promote policies on medical devices.

The Medicines and Medical Devices Agency was founded with the status of public institution with autonomous budget under the Ministry of Health, which aims to provide the presence of pharmaceuticals and efficient and safe, qualitative medical devices on the Republic of Moldova's market. The Agency is the competent and decision-making authority for medicines and medical devices and ensures the promotion of state policies and achievement of the set objectives.

The development and implementation of the Medical Device Management Strategy 2016-2020 is based on a systematic approach to health care reform, coupled with the socio-economic development and the European integration vector of the Republic of Moldova and has a significant impact on the quality and efficiency of health care services provided.

Following the project "Improvement of Health Services no. MDA-P1 ", implemented by the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Moldova in cooperation with JICA, five public medical institutions of secondary and tertiary level benefited from a wide range of sophisticated medical equipment that focused on the need to implement an effective management of medical devices and on the beginning of the Technical Assistance project "Improvement of the Medical Device Management" implemented by the same development partners.

The project "Improvement of the Medical Device Management" is designed with a view of creating an appropriate framework for ensuring the maintenance of the medical devices within the 5 target institutions mentioned above in order to strengthen the health system and ensure the high-quality medical care services.

By implementing the Medical Device Management, medical institutions can provide a complete service that is not hindered by the non-functional technologies; the equipment is used and maintained properly and the staff makes use of the equipment, following the written procedures and good practice.