Good Regulatory Practices and Good Reliance Practices

World Health Organization

Webinar on Good Regulatory Practices and Medical Device Regulation

South Africa, 10 August 2022

Agnes Sitta Kijo –WHO/RPQ/REG/FPI

Access to medical products – a global challenge

Good health is impossible without access to medical products

Universal Health Coverage depends on the availability of quality assured affordable health technologies in sufficient quantities

Reasons for limited/insufficient access are numerous

- ✓Inadequate regulatory capacity and lack of collaboration and work sharing in regulation of medical products between countries

- **World Health Assembly Resolution 67.20 in 2014**
  - ✓ recognized the importance of strong regulatory systems to a well-functioning healthcare system and the attainment of health-related United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and Universal Health Coverage.

Good Regulatory Practices Principles

https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/340323/9789240020900-eng.pdf

WHO Good Regulatory Practices

World Health Organization

Purpose

- Present the **high-level principles** of Good Regulatory Practices.
- Principles to serve as **benchmarks**.
- Guide Member States in **prioritizing** their regulatory activities according to: resources, national goals, public health policies, medical products policies and the medical product environment

Scope

- **Relevant to all regulators**, irrespective of resources, maturity or regulatory models; equally applicable to supranational (e.g. regional), national and subnational regulatory systems.
- **Related audience**: institutions and policy-makers, regulatory networks, regulated parties

WHO Good regulatory practices in the regulation of medical products. WHO Expert Committee on Specifications for Pharmaceutical Preparations: Fifty-fifth report. Technical Report Series, No. 1033, Annex 11; 2021. Link: https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/55th-report-of-the-who-expert-committee-on-specifications-for-pharmaceutical-preparations

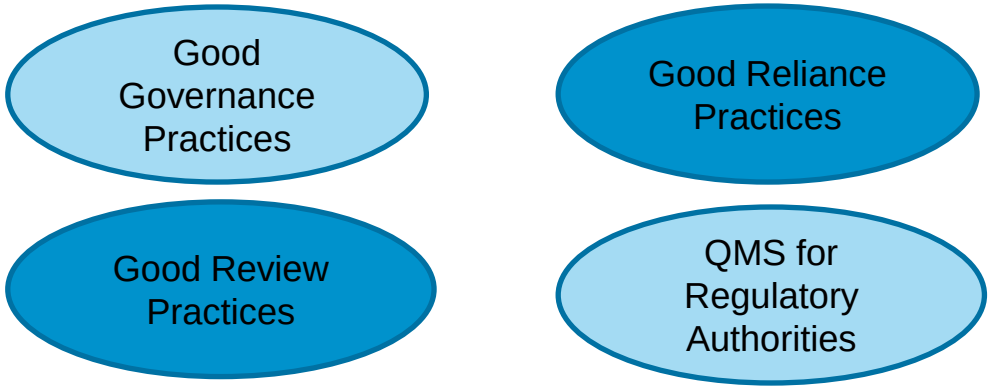
WHO Good Regulatory Practices

World Health Organization

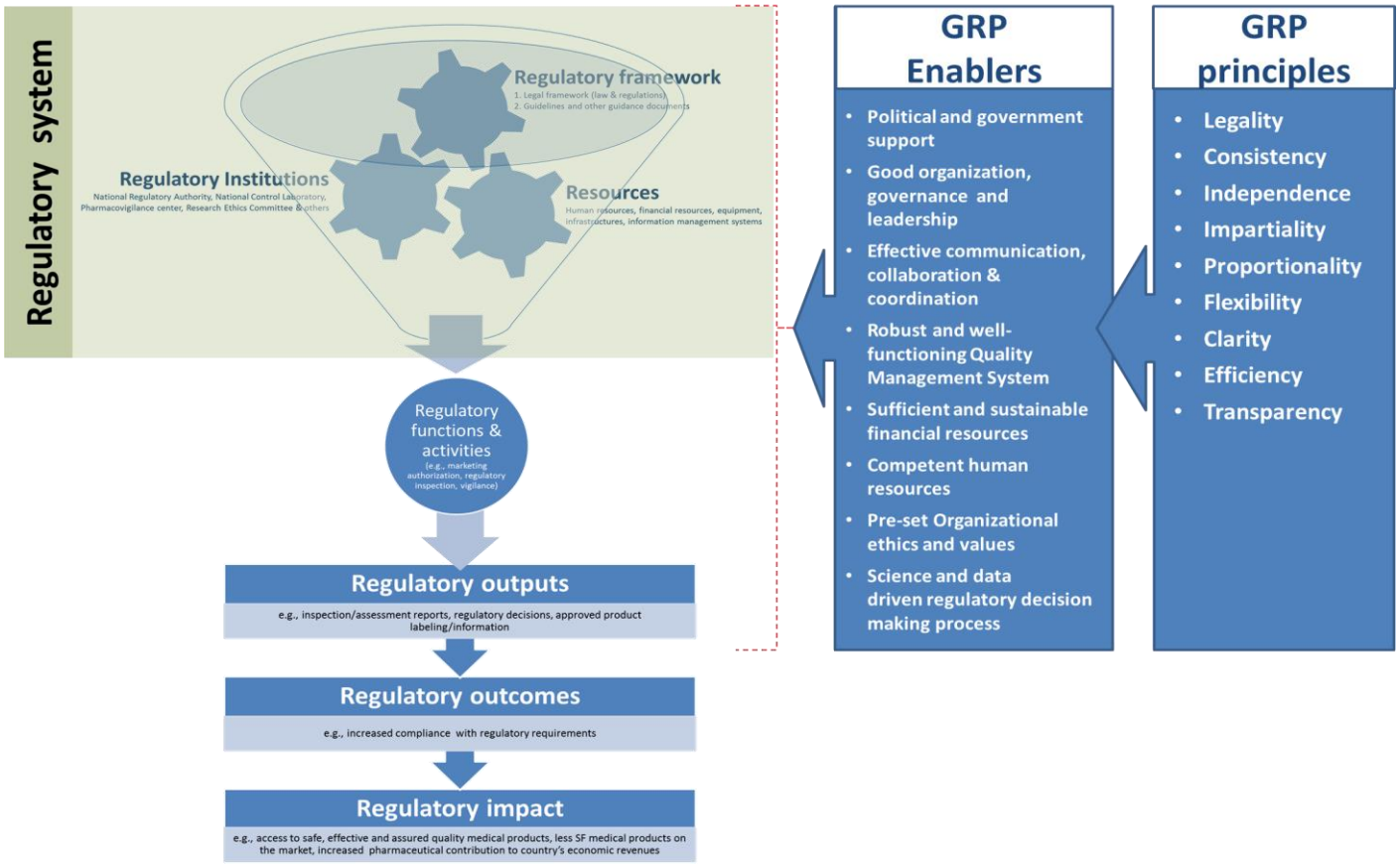
Objectives:

- Ensure sound and effective regulation of medical products.
- Higher-quality regulation, better regulatory decision-making and compliance.
- More efficient regulatory systems and better public health outcomes.
- Up to date regulatory systems.
- Promote trust among regulatory authorities and other stakeholders.
- Facilitate international cooperation.

Complemented by:



Good Regulatory Practices Summary



Principles and enablers of Good Regulatory Practices (GRP) and Components of the regulatory system

World Health Organization

Good Reliance Practices Principles

https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/340323/9789240020900-eng.pdf

Principles of Reliance

World Health Organization

International cooperation essential to ensure the safety, quality and efficacy/performance of locally used medical products.
No regulatory authorities even the best resourced one can do it alone.

Make best use of available resources and expertise, avoid duplication and concentrate regulatory efforts and resources where most needed.
Promote a more efficient approach to regulatory oversight, thereby improving access to quality-assured, effective and safe medical products over the entire life-cycle.

The act whereby the regulatory authority in one jurisdiction takes into account and give significant weight to assessments performed by another regulatory authority or trusted institution, or to any other authoritative information in reaching its own decision. Various forms of reliance approaches.

The relying authority remains independent, responsible and accountable regarding the decisions taken, even when it relies on the decisions, assessments and information of others.

WHO Good Reliance Practices – Key concepts

World Health Organization

Recognition (vs. reliance): more formalized approach to reliance, i.e. recognizes the decisions of another regulatory authority, system or institution, with no additional assessment. Usually requires formal and binding legal provisions.

Unilateral vs. mutual: unilaterally/without reciprocity or mutual recognition based on binding mutual agreements or treaties.

Life cycle approach: to apply across the full life cycle of medical products and all regulatory functions (e.g. important for vigilance and post-authorization activities).

Risk-based approach: NRA to define own strategy (e.g. based on type and source of products evaluated, level of resources and expertise available, public health needs and priorities of the country, and opportunities for reliance) .

Regional reliance mechanisms: assessment for medical products can be conducted centrally based on a regional regulatory system for a group of countries (binding or not).

Examples of Reliance in the Medical Device field –

World Health Organization

Abridged Regulatory Pathways

- WHO-Collaborative Registration Procedure for in-vitro diagnostics.

https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/collaborative-procedure-between-the-who-and-nra-s-in-the-assessment-and-accelerated-national-registration-of-who-prequalified-ivd-s-annex4

- Abridged pathways for the approval of medical devices with approval from other regulatory authorities.

Example in Australia, https://www.tga.gov.au/publication/use-market-authorisation-evidence-comparable-overseas-regulators-assessment-bodies-medical-devices-including-ivds, Singapore, https://www.hsa.gov.sg/medical-devices/registration/overview#toggle=togglepanel-overseas-reference-regulatory-agencies

- WHO EUL Facilitated Procedure for SARs CoV-2 assays

https://www.who.int/teams/regulation-prequalification/regulation-and-safety/facilitated-product-introduction/eul-facilitated-procedure

- Thai-FDA - Singapore HSA Regulatory Reliance

Reliance system for a group of countries

Medical Device Single Audit Program (MDSAP), developed under the International Medical Device Regulators Forum (IMDRF): regulatory authorities of Australia, Brazil, Canada, Japan and the USA have pooled their resources into a robust system of oversight by third party auditing organizations, which, in turn, audit the quality management systems of medical device manufacturers.

https://www.fda.gov/medical-devices/cdrh-international-programs/medical-device-single-audit-program-mdsap

WHO Regulatory System Strengthening activities

WHO Global Benchmarking Tool (GBT) for evaluation of national regulatory systems of medical products: revision VI

Objectives of the WHO regulatory system strengthening programme

World Health Organization

1

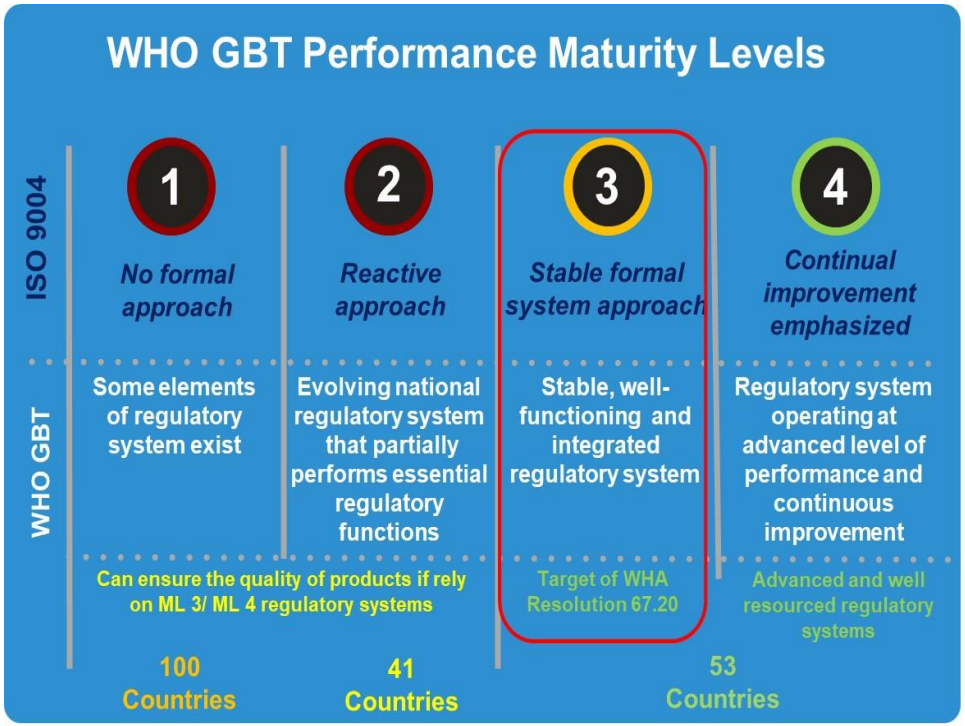
- **Build regulatory capacity** in Member States consistent with good regulatory practices

2

- **Promote regulatory cooperation, convergence and transparency** through networking, work-sharing and **reliance**

- **World Health Assembly Resolution 67.20 in 2014**
  - ✓ recognized the importance of strong regulatory systems to a well-functioning healthcare system and the attainment of health-related United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and Universal Health Coverage.

WHO Benchmarking of National Regulatory Authorities (NRAs)



- **The current GBT Rev VI covers only medicines, vaccines and blood and blood products**
- **Revision of the tool to integrate medical devices and IVDs indicators into the GBT was initiated end of last year. The work involved WG members:** WHO, Medical devices and IVDs regulators and laboratory experts and other MDs experts who are non regulators.
- **Discussion :** 1 September 2020 to June 2021.
- **Status:** Editorial work and publishing in Q4.
- **Pilot:** Q1 of 2022 in Kenya

Evaluation of national regulatory systems of medical devices (GBT+ Medical devices) (who.int)

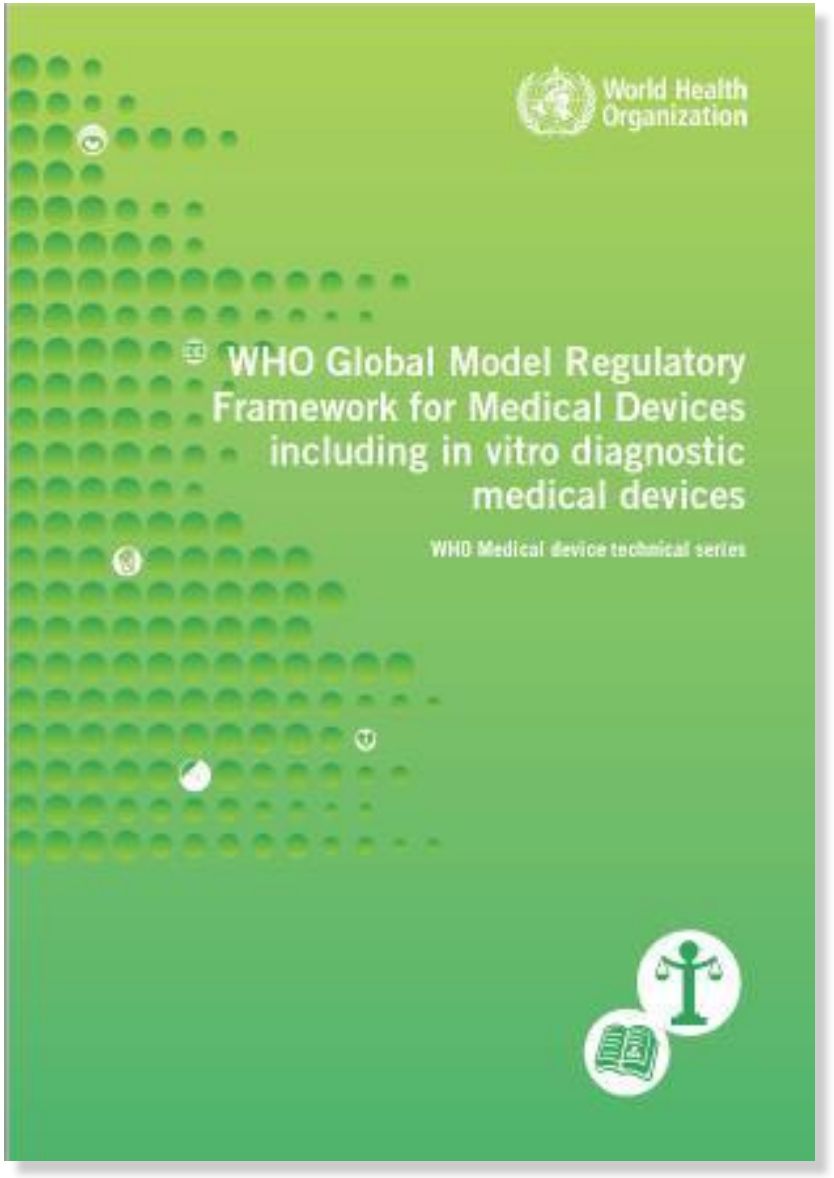
World Health Organization

Global Model Regulatory Framework for medical devices including IVDs

https://apps.who.int/iris/handle/10665/255177

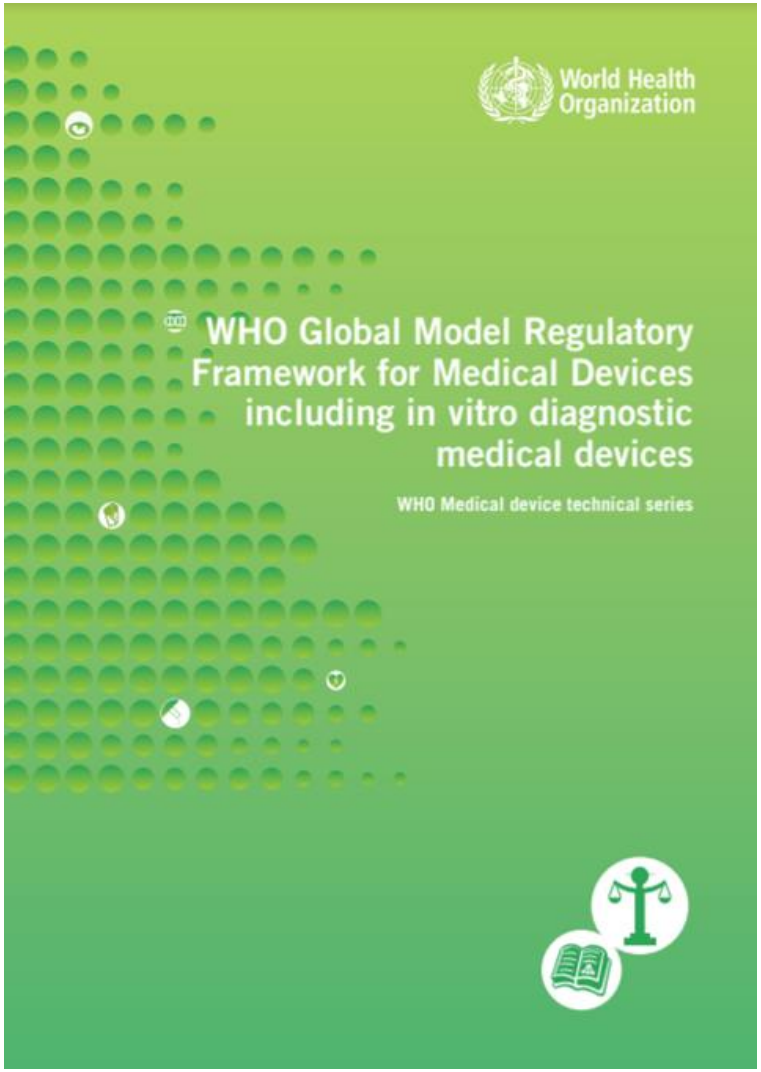
The WHO Global Model Regulatory Framework for Medical Devices including IVDs…. Key points

World Health Organization



- ✓ Published by WHO in 2017; on going review
- ✓ Relevant for WHO Member States;
- ✓ Recommends two steps i.e. basic regulatory controls towards an expanded level;
- ✓ Describes the role and responsibilities of a country's NRAs for implementing and enforcing the regulations;
- ✓ Describes circumstances in which a regulatory authority may either: "rely on", or "recognize" the work products from trusted regulatory sources

Why revise and update the GMRF



https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789241512350

- ✓ The WHO Global Model was published in 2017, developed in 2015-2016.
- ✓ Rapidly changing field, technologies are advancing in their nature and complexity e.g., AIs, Software as medical devices.
- ✓ Update of guidance such as PMS & MS, GRel, GRP and discussions during integration of MDs indicators into the GBT
- ✓ Experience with implementation including challenges experienced by regulators during the COVID-19 pandemic which clearly demonstrates the importance of safe, reliable, and appropriate quality medical devices including IVDs.
- ✓ Experience in the use of the GMRF teaches that countries would benefit expansively from a more detailed guidance on some topics.

Outline of the revised GMRF

- Introduction
- Definition, classification, essential principles, and conformity assessment of medical devices
- Enabling conditions for effective regulation of medical devices including IVDs
- Establishing a stepwise approach to regulating medical devices
- Regulatory pathways
- Additional topics
- Implementation

Thank you

World Health Organization

WHO

20, Avenue Appia
1211 Geneva Switzerland

Agnes Sitta Kijo| Technical Officer | REG

kijoa@who.int

www.who.int