

A silent disease

More people die each year from cardiovascular diseases (CVDs) than from any other cause. Over three-quarters of heart disease and stroke-related deaths occur in low and middle-income countries.

Approximately 20-30% of the adult population in the Region of the Americas has hypertension. Of this population, less than 20% have controlled hypertension.

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The HEARTS initiative

It is an initiative of the countries, led by the Ministries of Health with the participation of local actors and accompanied by PAHO. HEARTS seeks to integrate into health services to promote the adoption of best practices in the prevention and control of CVDs, with emphasis on primary health care.

To reduce the impact of CVDs, measures must be taken to improve prevention, diagnosis, care and management of these diseases. Therefore, it is necessary to have essential medicines and technologies that are safe, effective, and quality assured.

The World Health Organization has included in the List of Essential Medicines for the first time, four fixed dose combination antihypertensive medicines. To improve access and availability of antihypertensive medications, PAHO has updated the Strategic Fund Medicine List to treat people with hypertension.



PAHO Strategic Fund



What is it?

The Strategic Fund of the Pan American Health Organization is a regional mechanism for pooled procurement of essential medicines and strategic public health supplies for the countries of the Americas. The Fund pools demand from multiple countries and calls for international competitive bids to procure quality-assured medicines and supplies at lower prices.

The purpose of the Strategic Fund is to improve access to quality, safe, and effective medicines and health supplies, while ensuring affordability, and promoting efficient and sustainable health systems.

Benefits of using the Strategic Fund



- Technical Cooperation



- Competitive Prices



- Financial Support

- Quality, Safety and Efficacy Assured

- Access to products with limited availability

Who can use it?

All health ministries and government institutions providing public health services in Members States of the Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO) can procure medicines and supplies through the Strategic Fund after signing an agreement with the Organization.

What products are available for the treatment of hypertension?

The PAHO Strategic Fund incorporated **fixed dose combination antihypertensive** medications for the treatment of hypertension and included other lipid control medications in its Product List for the countries of the Americas.

PRODUCTS

(As of November 2019)

Antihypertensives

- **Telmisartan/Amlodipine**
- **Telmisartan/Hydrochlorothiazide**
- **Lisinopril/Amlodipine**
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- Amlodipine
- Telmisartan
- Lisinopril
- Chlorthalidone

Lipid Lowering agents

- Simvastatin

To access the full list of cardiovascular medications please visit www.paho.org/strategicfund