



MERCURY-FREE HEALTH CARE

An Initiative to Substitute
Mercury-based Medical Devices
Around the World.



www.mercuryfreehealthcare.org

MERCURY FREE-HEALTHCARE 2020

Since 2008, the World Health Organization (WHO) and Health Care Without Harm (HCWH) have managed a Global Initiative to substitute mercury-based medical devices with affordable, accurate alternatives.

This initiative, which has achieved and documented significant success in multiple countries, is also a contribution to the UNEP Mercury Products Partnership.

With the advent of the Minamata Convention on Mercury, the WHO-HCWH Global Initiative is setting its sights on achieving "Mercury-Free Healthcare 2020." Specifically this means:

By 2020, achieve the Minamata Convention commitment to end the manufacture, import and export of mercury-containing fever thermometers and sphygmomanometers, by supporting the deployment of accurate, affordable, and safer non-mercury alternatives.

BACKGROUND

Prior to and during the mercury-treaty negotiations health systems in many countries -developed and developing - moved to substitute mercury-based medical devices- thermometers and sphygmomanometers (blood pressure devices) with accurate, affordable alternatives.

The Global Mercury-Free Healthcare Initiative (www.mercuryfreehealthcare.org) led by the WHO and HCWH assisted hospitals, health systems and ministries of health in Asia, Africa and Latin America in this endeavor by providing technical expertise and supporting policy development and implementation. Article Four of the Minamata Convention mandates

the phase-out of mercury thermometers and blood pressure devices by 2020.

ACTIVITIES

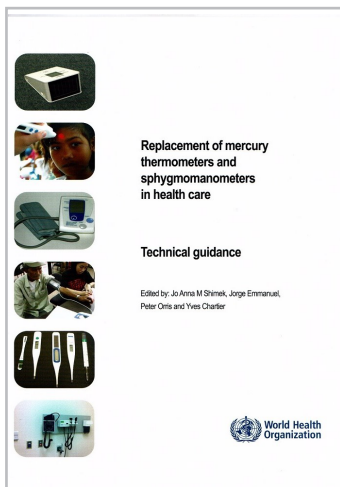
In order to support implementation of the Minamata Convention, the WHO-HCWH Global Initiative will carry out a series of activities pending the availability of financial resources. These will include:

1. Educate, advise and provide guidance to governments, international aid agencies, and private and public health systems on the rapid implementation of the mandate in Article Four of the Minamata Convention, to end manufacture, import and export mercury thermometers and blood pressure devices.
2. Provide technical documentation and expertise to facilitate the switch to mercury-free health care at the policy and operational levels.
3. Continue to expand awareness raising and mobilization of the health care sector in all countries in order to not only shift demand toward alternative devices, but to also educate societies as to the health impacts of mercury.

CONTACT

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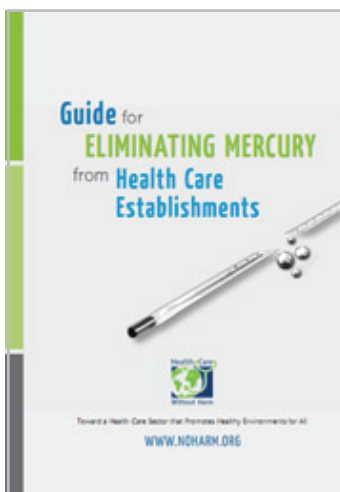
For more Information visit
www.mercuryfreehealthcare.org



REPLACEMENT OF MERCURY THERMOMETERS AND SPHYGMOMANOMETERS IN HEALTH CARE. TECHNICAL GUIDANCE.

WHO 2011

This short guide is designed to provide step-by-step instructions for the safe substitution of non-mercury thermometers and sphygmomanometers in health-care settings. It identifies available resources that support the equivalent accuracy and comparable clinical utility of the substituted products, while protecting health-care workers and the environment. It is designed for professionals responsible for institutions or ministries desiring to switch to safer non-polluting technologies in health care. [Download: http://www.who.int/water_sanitation_health/publications/2011/mercury_thermometers/en/index.html](http://www.who.int/water_sanitation_health/publications/2011/mercury_thermometers/en/index.html)

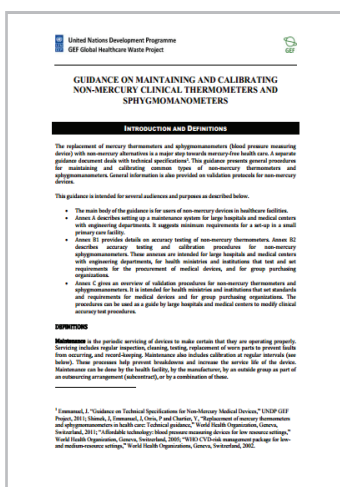


MERCURY ELIMINATION GUIDE FOR HOSPITALS

HCWH 2011

In order to scale-up the replacement of mercury-based medical devices around the world, HCWH has put together a guide that systematizes the basic steps in mercury substitution.

The guide is available in [Spanish, English, Portuguese and Chinese: http://www.mercuryfreehealthcare.org/HCWH_Mercury_Guide.html](http://www.mercuryfreehealthcare.org/HCWH_Mercury_Guide.html)



GUIDANCE ON MAINTAINING AND CALIBRATING NON-MERCURY CLINICAL THERMOMETERS AND SPHYGMOMANOMETERS

UNDP-GEF Global Health Care Waste Project 2013

The replacement of mercury thermometers and sphygmomanometers -blood pressure measuring device with non-mercury alternatives is a major step towards mercury-free health care. This guidance presents general procedures for maintaining and calibrating common types of non-mercury thermometers and sphygmomanometers. General information is also provided on validation protocols for non-mercury devices. [Download: http://www.noharm.org/lib/downloads/mercury/Guidance_Hg_2013.pdf](http://www.noharm.org/lib/downloads/mercury/Guidance_Hg_2013.pdf)