

# ESSENTIAL MEDICINES FOR NONCOMMUNICABLE DISEASES

*Available through the PAHO Strategic Fund*

**PAHO**



Pan American  
Health  
Organization



World Health  
Organization  
REGIONAL OFFICE FOR THE  
Americas



**PAHO  
STRATEGIC  
FUND**



## Essential Medicines for Noncommunicable Diseases and for Palliative Care

### Available through the PAHO Strategic Fund

Expanding equitable and universal access, improving availability, and ensuring affordability of essential medicines for noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) is an essential part of care for people living with chronic diseases and can save lives and improve well-being.

PAHO, through its Revolving Fund for Strategic Public Health Supplies (Strategic Fund), helps ensure availability of these essential NCD medicines, including palliative care medicines, at a competitive price for all countries. The Strategic Fund is an integrated pooled procurement mechanism that supports pharmaceutical supply chain management and provides technical cooperation, from demand forecasting, planning, and regional consolidation to supporting rational use of medicines and technologies to ensuring timely end-to-end delivery and avoiding stock-outs. The products purchased through the Strategic Fund meet international standards in safety, efficacy, and quality. While the Strategic Fund also strengthens access for medicines to treat communicable diseases—from HIV/AIDS to leishmaniasis to hepatitis C and more—medicines for chronic diseases were first included in 2013 and have since been made more easily accessible to Member States through this mechanism, including by offering credit lines to support procurement financing and facilitating technical cooperation to secure registration waivers and mitigate barriers as a result of patents.

*This brochure provides information on the NCD medications and their formulations available through the PAHO Strategic Fund. For more information, including how to use the PAHO Strategic Fund, visit the webpage: [www.paho.org/en/paho-strategic-fund](http://www.paho.org/en/paho-strategic-fund).*

# CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASES

**Cardiovascular diseases** (CVD) are a group of disorders of the heart and blood vessels and include coronary heart disease, cerebrovascular disease, rheumatic heart disease, and other conditions. Risk factors for CVD include raised blood pressure, raised blood glucose, and hyperlipidemia, as well as obesity. Identifying those at highest risk of CVDs and ensuring they receive appropriate treatment, including access to essential CVD medicines can prevent premature CVD deaths. PAHO provides technical assistance on CVD prevention and control, through the HEARTS Initiative, and more information can be found on the webpage: [www.paho.org/en/hearts-americas](http://www.paho.org/en/hearts-americas).

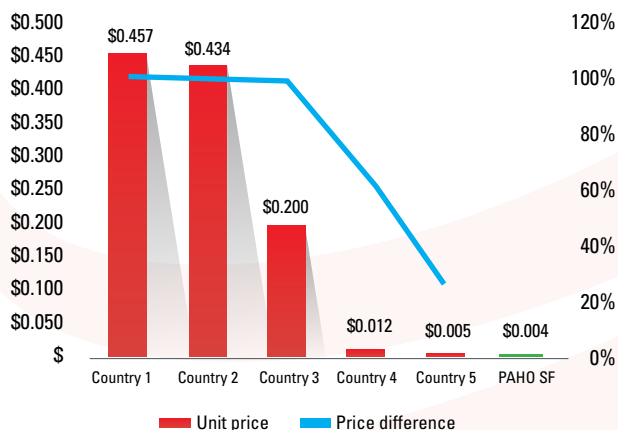
**The Strategic Fund**, in close coordination with technical specialists, has been working to expand access to CVD medicines, including establishing new long-term agreements in 2020 for 15 antihypertensive medicines. As a result, the Strategic Fund has been able to ensure competitive prices for CVD medicines for Latin America and the Caribbean.



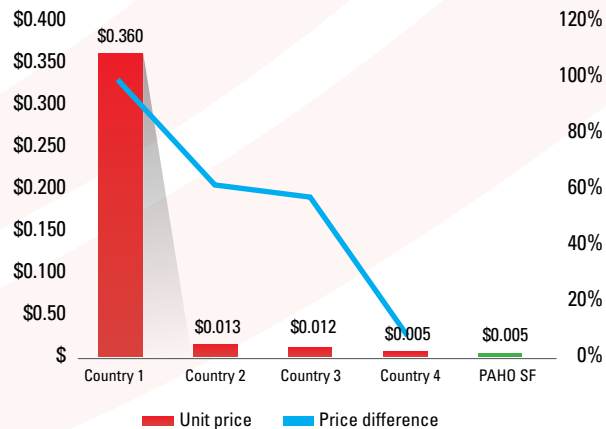
## Antihypertensive Medicines: Price Reductions through the Strategic Fund



**Amlodipine 5 mg TAB**



**Amlodipine 10 mg TAB**



**PAHO offers essential CVD medicines through the Strategic Fund, as listed below.**

<b>Antihypertensive medicines</b>		
Amlodipine	5 mg	Tablet
Bisoprolol	1.25 mg; 5 mg	Tablet
Carvedilol	3.125 mg; 6.25 mg; 12.5 mg; 25 mg; 50 mg	Tablet
Hydralazine	20 mg	Powder for injection
Hydralazine	25 mg; 50 mg	Tablet
Hydrochlorothiazide	12.5 mg; 25 mg	Tablet
Lisinopril + Amlodipine	10 mg + 5 mg; 20 mg + 5 mg; 20 mg + 10 mg	Tablet
Lisinopril + Hydrochlorothiazide	10 mg + 12.5 mg; 20 mg + 12.5 mg; 20 mg + 25 mg	Tablet
Losartan	25 mg; 50 mg; 100 mg	Tablets
Methyldopa	250 mg	Tablet
Metoprolol	100 mg	Tablet
Sodium nitroprusside	50 mg in ampoule	Powder for infusion
Telmisartan + Amlodipine	40 mg + 5 mg; 80 mg + 5 mg; 80 mg + 10 mg	Tablet
Telmisartan + Hydrochlorothiazide	40 mg + 12.5 mg; 80 mg + 12.5 mg; 80 mg + 25 mg	Tablet
<b>Antiarrhythmic medicines</b>		
Amiodarone	100 mg; 200 mg; 400 mg	Tablet
Amiodarone	50 mg (hydrochloride)/ml in 3-ml ampoule	Injection
Digoxin	62.5 micrograms; 250 micrograms	Tablet
Digoxin	50 micrograms/ml	Oral solution
Lidocaine	20 mg (hydrochloride)/ml in 5-ml ampoule	Injection
Verapamil	2.5 mg (hydrochloride)/ml in 2-ml ampoule	Injection
Verapamil	40 mg; 80 mg	Tablet
<b>Diuretics</b>		
Spironolactone	25 mg	Tablet
<b>Antianginal medicines</b>		
Glyceryl trinitrate	500 micrograms	Tablet (sublingual)
<b>Antithrombotic medicines</b>		
Clopidogrel	75 mg; 300 mg	Tablet
Streptokinase	1.5 million IU in vial	Powder for injection
<b>Lipid-lowering agents</b>		
Simvastatin	5 mg; 10 mg; 20 mg; 40 mg	Tablet

# DIABETES

**Diabetes** is a chronic metabolic disease characterized by raised blood glucose, and if uncontrolled can lead to serious damage to the heart, blood vessels, eyes, kidneys, and nerves. Type 2 diabetes is the most common form and occurs when the body becomes resistant to insulin or does not make enough insulin. Type 1 diabetes is less common and occurs when the pancreas produces little or no insulin. For people living with diabetes, access to affordable treatment, including insulin, is critical to their survival. PAHO works to improve diabetes prevention and control, and more information can be found on the webpage: [www.paho.org/en/topics/diabetes](http://www.paho.org/en/topics/diabetes).

● **The Strategic Fund**, in close coordination with experts, works to strengthen universal access for diabetes medicines. This includes expanding availability in remote areas and hard-to-reach populations, particularly for key products like insulin. Challenges to improve diabetes medication include high prices and disparities in access, tier pricing, exclusive distributors, and a lack of transparency in pricing models for critical diabetes-related medicines.



**PAHO offers essential diabetes medicines through the Strategic Fund, as listed below.**

Insulins and other antidiabetic agents		
Insulin soluble	40 IU/ml in 10 ml vial; 100 IU/ml in 10 ml vial	Injection
Intermediate-acting insulin	40 IU/ml in 10 ml vial; 100 IU/ml in 10 ml vial	Injection
Metformin	2.5 mg; 5 mg 500 mg (hydrochloride)	Tablet
Gliclazide	30 mg; 60 mg; 80 mg	Tablet



# CANCER

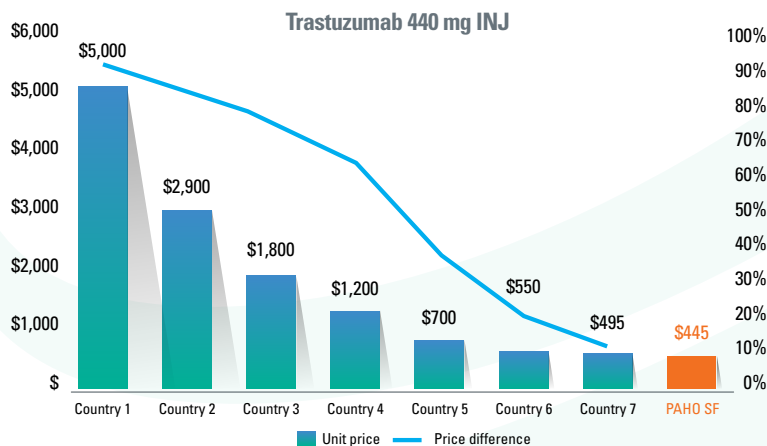
**Cancer** is a large group of diseases that affects almost any organ or tissue of the body when abnormal cells grow uncontrollably, go beyond their usual boundaries to invade adjoining parts of the body and/or spread to other organs. Cancer is the second leading cause of death globally, and the most common types are lung, breast, cervix, prostate, and colorectal cancers in adults. In children, leukemia, lymphoma, brain tumors, and neuroblastoma are the most common cancer types. Access to quality early detection, timely diagnosis and treatment are critical for survival. PAHO provides technical assistance on cancer prevention and control, including implementing regional initiatives on cervical cancer elimination, breast cancer control, and childhood cancer. For more information please visit the PAHO webpage:

<https://www.paho.org/en/topics/cancer>.

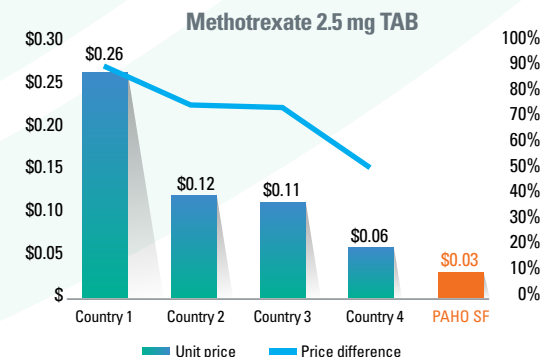
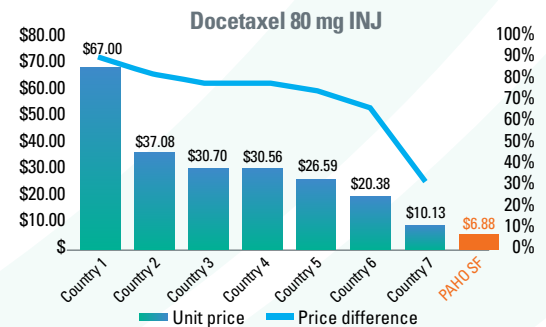
The **PAHO Strategic Fund** works closely with technical partners and procurement specialists to address some of these challenges to improve access and availability of cancer medications. The

challenges include the need to update national medicines lists, develop clear estimations, address fragmented and decentralized acquisition plans for procurement, insufficient budgets, and inadequate quality assurance for essential medicines. The Strategic Fund has committed to supporting Member States to expand access to cancer medicines at the country level, for common cancer types including for breast, cervical, and pediatric cancers. By securing key long-term agreements with manufacturers for oncology medications in 2018 and introducing similar biotherapeutic products for breast cancer in 2020, the Strategic Fund has been able to overcome barriers related to price, long-standing patents, quality assurance, and inability to pay through out-of-pocket spending, among others. In addition to improving the availability of medicines through generics and biosimilars, the Strategic Fund also supports decision-making by identifying cost-effective cancer treatments through technical support and guidance with PAHO specialists.

## Oncologics: Price Reductions through the Strategic Fund



Source: Public data from country purchases and PAHO Strategic Fund. Country legend may vary across graphs.



Source: Public data from country purchases, CENABAST Price observatory, and PAHO Strategic Fund. Country legend may vary across graphs.

## Essential cancer medicines are available through the PAHO Strategic Fund, as listed below.

Cytotoxic medicines		
Asparaginase	10,000 IU in vial	Powder for injection
Bleomycin	15 mg in vial	Powder for injection
Calcium folinate	3 mg/ml in 10 ml ampoule	Injection
Calcium folinate	15 mg ( <i>also 5 mg and 25 mg in EML 2019</i> )	Tablet
Carboplatin	150 mg; 450mg	Powder for injection
Chlorambucil	2 mg	Tablet
Cisplatin	IV: 50 mg per 50 ml; 100 mg per 100 ml	Injection
Cyclophosphamide	500 mg in vial	Powder for injection
Cyclophosphamide	25 mg; 50 mg	Tablet
Cytarabine	100 mg in vial	Powder for injection
Dacarbazine	100 mg in vial	Powder for injection
Dactinomycin	500 ug in vial	Powder for injection
Daunorubicin	50 mg in vial	Powder for injection
Docetaxel	20 mg/ml ( <i>also 40 mg per ml</i> )	Injection
Doxorubicin	10 mg; 50 mg in vial	Powder for injection
Etoposide	100 mg ( <i>also 50 mg</i> )	Capsule
Etoposide	20 mg/ml in 5 ml ampoule	Injection
Fluorouracil	50 mg per ml in 5 ml ampoule	Injection
Ifosfamide	1 g vial; 500 mg; 2 g in vial	Powder for injection
Mercaptopurine	50 mg	Tablet
Mesna (2-mercaptoethane sulfonate sodium)	100 mg/ml in 4 ml; 10 ml ampoules; 100 mg/ml in 10 ml ampoule	Injection
Methotrexate	50 mg (sodium salt) in vial	Powder for injection
Methotrexate	2.5 mg (sodium salt)	Tablet
Placitaxel	6 mg/ml	Powder for injection
Procarbazine	50 mg (hydrochloride)	Capsule
Tamoxifen	10 mg; 20 mg (citrate)	Tablet
Vinblastine	10 mg (sulfate) in vial	Powder for injection
Vincristine	1 mg; 5 mg (sulfate) in vial	Powder for injection
Targeted therapies		
Trastuzumab*	60 mg; 150 mg; 440 mg in vial <i>*including quality-assured biosimilars</i>	Powder for injection
Rituximab*	100 mg/10 ml in 10 ml vial; 500 mg/50 ml in 50 ml vial <i>*including quality-assured biosimilars</i>	Injection



# PALLIATIVE CARE

**Palliative care** aims to improve the quality of life of patients and their families facing serious illness, through the prevention and relief of suffering by means of early identification and treatment of pain, as well as physical, psychosocial, and spiritual support. Palliative care is an essential component of comprehensive health services for NCDs, including essential medicines. PAHO also provides guidance, assistance, and a community of practice on palliative care. For more information visit the PAHO webpage: [www.paho.org/en/topics/palliative-care](http://www.paho.org/en/topics/palliative-care).

- **The Strategic Fund** works to address the significant challenges in increasing availability of palliative care medicines. Complications in national markets and low prioritization means that these critical health products are often neglected, despite their importance in both routine health services and emergency response. In some countries, excessive regulations prohibit availability altogether, rendering needed medications like morphine challenging to access.



## The Strategic Fund offers essential palliative care medicines, as listed below.

Analgesics		
Codeine	30 mg (phosphate)	Tablet
Morphine	10 mg/ml (sulfate or hydrochloride) in 1 ml ampoule	Injection
Morphine	10 mg/ 5ml (sulfate or hydrochloride)	Oral solution
Morphine	10 mg; 30 mg; 60 mg; 20 to 200 mg slow release granules to mix with water	Tablet



# CHRONIC RESPIRATORY DISEASES

**Chronic respiratory diseases** (CRDs) are diseases of the airways and other structures of the lung. Some of the most common are chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), asthma, occupational lung diseases, and pulmonary hypertension. Risk factors include tobacco smoke, air pollution, occupational chemicals, and dusts. CRDs are not curable; however, treatments that help dilate major air passages and improve shortness of breath can help control symptoms and improve quality of life. Guidance on essential services to manage people with CRD is included in the [WHO guidance on essential NCD services](#).

• **The PAHO Strategic Fund** aims to strengthen availability of lifesaving medicines and ensure these are delivered on time and based on country needs. In addition, the Strategic Fund works with technical specialists to ensure procured medicines meet international quality standards and can be obtained at competitive prices by leveraging economies of scale. Furthermore, the Strategic Fund has recently been pivotal to supporting the COVID-19 response, including helping make these critical treatments available to address long-term impacts and complications from the disease.



Essential CRD medicines are available through the PAHO Strategic Fund, as listed below.

Antiasthmatics and medicines for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease		
Beclometasone	50 micrograms (dipropionate) per dose; 100 micrograms (dipropionate) per dose (as CFC free forms)	Inhalation (aerosol)
Ipratropium bromide	20 micrograms/metered dose	Inhalation (aerosol)
Salbutamol	100 micrograms (as sulfate) per dose	Inhalation (aerosol)
	50 micrograms (as sulfate) /ml in 5 ml ampoule	Injection
	100 micrograms (as sulfate) per dose	Metered dose inhaler (aerosol)
	5 mg (as sulfate) /ml	Respirator solution for use in nebulizers



## STRATEGIC FUND

Established in 2000 by Member States in the Region of the Americas, the PAHO Strategic Fund (officially named the Revolving Fund for Strategic Public Health Supplies) was developed to facilitate procurement of essential quality-assured medicines and health supplies, improve access to quality health care, and strengthen the sustainability of health systems. As a regional technical cooperation mechanism leveraging pooled procurement, the Strategic Fund has formal participating agreements with 48 countries, territories, and public health institutions.

The platform supports Member States through five major areas: 1) integrating technical cooperation with PAHO programs from Communicable and Noncommunicable Disease units and robust partnerships with multi-stakeholder agencies; 2) ensuring quality, safety, and efficacy of medicines and other health products; 3) improving demand-planning and capacity-strengthening for supply chain systems; 4) sustainably reducing prices of critical medications and supplies through transparent international sourcing; 5) line of credit option to facilitate Member State procurement.



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