Introduction

Oxygen therapy is an essential part of ending preventable deaths among children and adults globally. However, reliable access to oxygen, paired with pulse oximetry, remains inadequate across many health facilities in low- and middle-income countries for many reasons. Limited data, perceptions about costs, poor understanding of the impact on health outcomes, and the complexity of integration and maintenance across the health system all contribute to decreased access.

Scaling up access to oxygen is one of the most effective and critical actions decision-makers can take to improve health outcomes and save lives. The Oxygen Delivery Toolkit: Resources to plan and scale medical oxygen provides materials to help decision-makers, implementers, and advocates plan, manage, and communicate the value of scaling up oxygen delivery systems and access to oxygen and pulse oximetry.

Who is this toolkit for?

**Decision-makers**
People with the authority to make improved access to oxygen delivery systems a reality through supportive policymaking and implementation—including funding, regulations, and laws. Examples: Representatives of funding or regulatory bodies, officials from the ministry of health or finance, parliamentarians, regional health leaders, district health committee members, among others.

**Implementers**
People with the authority to organize action plans and necessary resources, and put them into practice. Examples: Health facility managers, procurement teams, ministry of health or finance officials, among others.

**Advocates**
Anyone aiming to increase access to oxygen delivery systems by influencing decision-makers to act in support of this goal. Examples: Civil society representatives, technical experts, academia, community members, religious and community leaders, among others.

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Oxygen Delivery Toolkit: Resources to plan and scale medical oxygen

**Oxygen Is Essential: A Policy and Advocacy Primer**

Scaling up access to oxygen is one of the most effective, and critical, actions decision-makers can take to improve health outcomes. The Oxygen Is Essential: A Policy and Advocacy Primer provides resources to help advocates and decision-makers understand the planning, policies, and technologies involved in oxygen delivery scale-up. The primer includes:

- An explanation of the global need for oxygen and data on current undersupply of oxygen.
- Global guidelines for shaping national oxygen policy.
- An overview of oxygen technologies and supplies.
- Guiding questions for oxygen scale-up.
- A case study on oxygen planning in Ethiopia.
- An oxygen messaging map that highlights key language and evidence that can be used for advocating for oxygen access.

**Toolkit resources**

**Oxygen Delivery Toolkit resources life cycle**

- **Policy and political commitment**
  - Oxygen is Essential: A Policy and Advocacy Primer
  - Health Facility Standards Guide
- **Baseline assessment**
  - Baseline Assessment Manual
- **Quantification**
  - Consumption Tracking Tool
  - Quantification and Costing Tools
- **Procurement**
  - Procurement Guide
  - Reference Pricing Guide
  - Quantification and Costing Tools
- **Distribution**
  - Electricity Planning Guide
- **Management and training**
  - Asset Management Guide
- **Financing**
  - Global Financing Facility Oxygen Investment Guide (coming soon)
**Health Facility Standards Guide**

Health facility infrastructure and medical device standards documents (i.e., health facility standards) are a set of suggestions or recommended requirements for each health facility level, including guidelines for location, infrastructure, staffing, health services, and/or medical devices. The **Health Facility Standards Guide** provides recommendations on how to create or improve high-quality, country-specific resources that outline health facility infrastructure and medical device requirements across different levels of the health system. The guide includes:

- A review of health facility standards documents from countries across income levels and world regions, with summaries of similarities, differences, case studies, and best practices.
- Suggestions for improving facility standards documents, with a focus on improving medical device requirements.
- Oxygen as a specific case study to evaluate if there is additional value that can be generated by including more detail regarding guidelines for deployment of oxygen delivery systems and pulse oximeters.

**Baseline Assessment Manual**

A complete understanding of the current availability of oxygen can enable precise identification of gaps within or across health facilities and streamline efforts to ensure accurate supply of needed oxygen delivery devices. The **Baseline Assessment Manual** provides resources to carry out the training of those involved in conducting a baseline assessment of the current status of oxygen delivery systems and barriers to access, as well as tools to collect those data. The manual includes:

- A ready-made digital survey tool, compatible with tablets and Android phones, for facility-level data collection of oxygen sources at all levels of the health system and within all wards in a facility at a cross section in time.
- A training curriculum for data collectors (inclusive of a training PowerPoint presentation), which includes an introduction to various device types, use of the survey tool, and quality assurance measures for data accuracy.
Consumption Tracking Tool

Health facilities often lack a clear picture of the amount of oxygen that is being used across all patients. The Consumption Tracking Tool is designed to help track daily oxygen use and, ultimately, inform future procurement planning. This tool helps health facilities compare oxygen consumption to the number of patients, by patient group, treated during a given time period. The tool includes:

- A simple paper or Excel-based form designed for use on an ongoing basis in a health facility.
- Metrics on patient visits and volume of oxygen used across multiple oxygen device types.
- An estimation of current oxygen usage in order to monitor changes over time and estimate future oxygen need.

Procurement Guide

An integrated and efficient procurement process is key to helping ensure that an appropriate, cost-effective, and sustainable oxygen delivery system is selected. The Procurement Guide describes the key steps that should be followed when procuring and contracting for an oxygen delivery system. The guide is intended to help:

- Understand the critical decisions and use a multistep procurement process for effective identification, selection, procurement, and introduction of oxygen delivery systems.
- Consider which oxygen delivery device is most appropriate for a particular health facility based on electricity, supply chain networks, and existing facility capacity.
Quantification and Costing Tools

Decision-makers

Implementers

It is important to be able to quantify the unmet need for medical devices before seeking to procure new ones. In addition, the price to procure medical devices is often viewed as only the initial capital expense to purchase it. However, medical devices incur operating costs over time. It is essential to understand the initial and long-term costs associated with different purchasing options in order to make informed procurement choices. The Quantification and Costing Tools are Excel-based resources that quantify the potential need for oxygen and pulse oximeters; based on these estimates of need, they calculate the anticipated costs over time for meeting this need with different device types.

Quantification within the tools includes:

- Ideal oxygen need calculated using a formula with inputs based on the number, type, occupancy rates, and average oxygen flow rates of inpatient beds in an individual health facility or across health facilities.
- Pulse oximetry need calculated according to the number of spot check and continuous monitoring pulse oximeters desired per bed type in an individual health facility or across health facilities.

Budget and planning within the tools include:

- Recommended quantities and estimated costs over time assuming a single device type to meet the estimated need.
- A comparison of costs assuming a mix of device types at different quantities to meet the estimated need.

Reference Pricing Guide

Decision-makers

Implementers

Reference prices are an important safeguard against overcharging by device manufacturers and distributors; however, obtaining a reference price for a device can be challenging. It is often difficult to make like-to-like price comparisons between devices with different specifications, life spans, or order quantities. The Reference Pricing Guide presents a guiding framework for decision-making based on reference prices. The guide includes:

- An explanation of the value of reference pricing in negotiation.
- Specific case studies using oxygen and pulse oximetry as examples.
- Recommendations for budgeting and device selection.
- Recommended safeguards for preventing lowest-price bias in price comparisons.
Electricity Planning Guide

Many essential medical devices require electricity to function; however, access to reliable electricity is still limited in numerous low- and middle-income countries. Besides power interruptions, voltage sags, surges, and other events of low-quality electricity can adversely affect the functionality of devices. The Electricity Planning Guide outlines recommendations for understanding the state of electricity access as well as methods for improving procurement and deployment of appropriate medical devices in environments where electricity challenges persist. The guide includes:

- Methods for collecting electricity data—both electricity availability and quality information—that may be routinely collected to inform device selection and placement.
- An overview of technology requirements that decision-makers should consider before purchasing an electromedical device, including the electricity requirements for a specific device (e.g., voltage specifications and anticipated electricity draws).
- Suggested protective accessory technologies, such as voltage stabilizers and surge protectors, that can help mitigate effects of poor electricity quality.
- Examples and recommendations specific to oxygen delivery devices and pulse oximeters.

Asset Management Guide

Medical devices are an important health care investment, supporting effective treatment of a range of medical conditions across the life span. However, in many low- and middle-income countries, they quickly fall into disrepair due to poor management and maintenance over time. The Asset Management Guide offers resources to help track medical device upkeep and, over the long term, improve future procurement decisions. The guide includes:

- An overview of the value of asset management systems in improving access to medical devices.
- Case studies and recommendations for best practices in the design, implementation, use, and maintenance of asset management systems.
- Recommendations for the type of health facility and medical device data to collect and methods for tracking details over time.
- Recommended opportunities to leverage asset information to improve procurement decision-making.
The Oxygen Delivery Toolkit: Resources to plan and scale medical oxygen was developed by PATH, in collaboration with international and national maternal, newborn, and child health and industry partners, as well as the ministries of health in India, Indonesia, Kenya, Malawi, and Senegal. The authors are grateful to each contributor for their insightful feedback and support on the development of the toolkit materials.

The toolkit was developed by PATH staff Chitra Agarwal, Ben Aliwa, Gwen Ambler, Ndeye Astou Badiane, Petros Chirambo, Rishabh Chopra, Zachary Clemence, Ben Creelman, Ray Cummings, Jaclyn Delarosa, Koura Diack, Todd Dickens, David Frantz, Hannah Erdy, Sarah Gannon, Kathryn Geskermann, Emily Gruber, Kanishk Gupta, Kara Hedges, Conner House, Shan Hsu, Shivanshi Kapoor, Bonnie Keith, Crystal Lawrence, Sudhir Maknikar, Patrick McKern (graphic design), Elena Pantjushenko, Mike Ruffo, Janet Shauri, Lisa Smith, and Alec Wollen, as well as independent consultants Rica Asuncion Reed, Andy Gouws, Janie Hayes, and Alexander Rothkopf.

For more information

www.path.org/oxygen-delivery-toolkit

oxygen@path.org