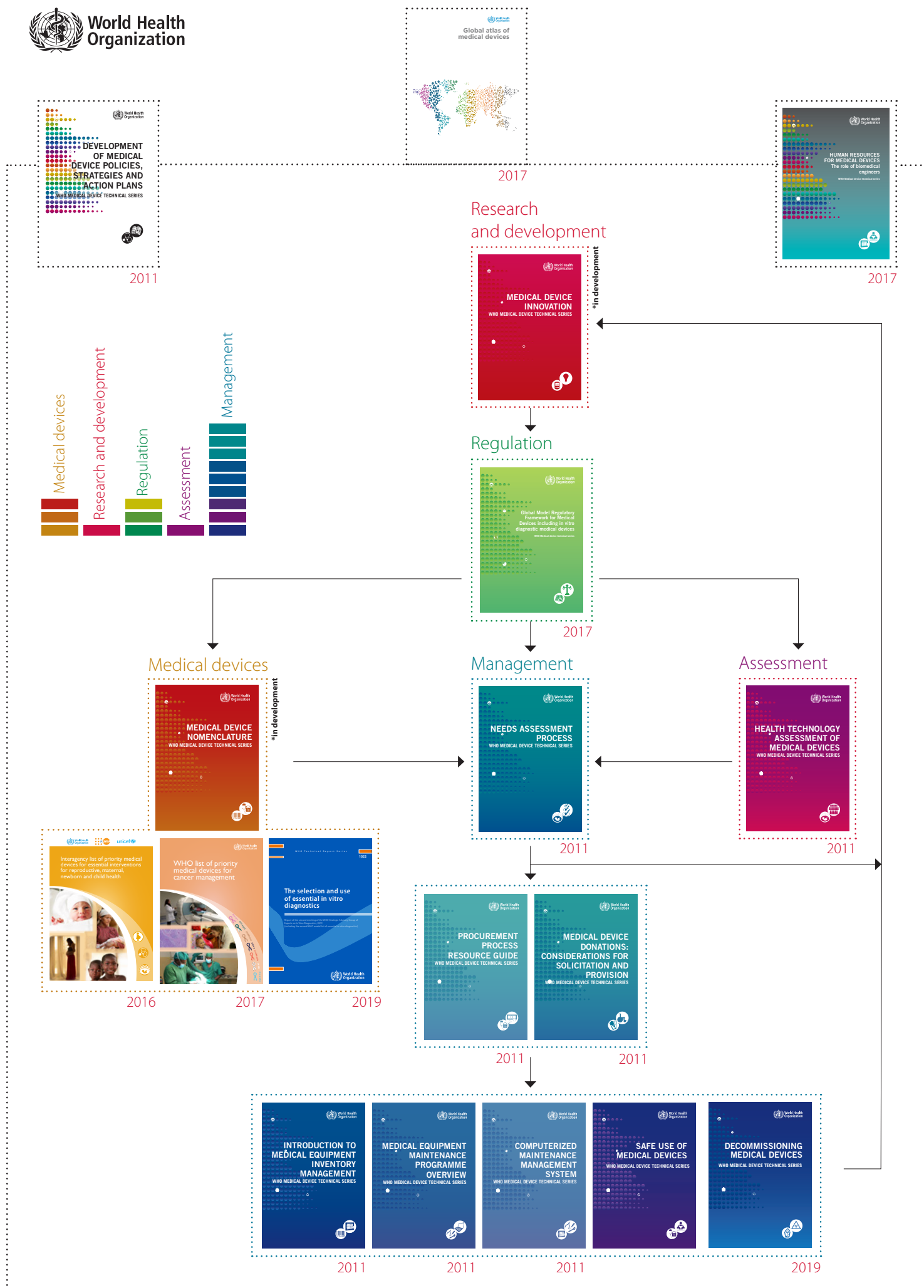




Decommissioning Medical Devices

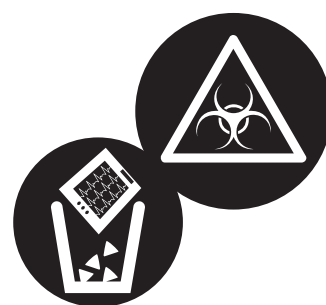
WHO Medical Device Technical Series





Decommissioning of Medical Devices

WHO Medical Device Technical Series



Decommissioning medical devices

(WHO medical device technical series)

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Glossary

As the terms listed below have multiple interpretations, they are defined here as used in this technical series and other WHO publications (1,2).

Cannibalization: Practice of recycling properly functioning parts or modules of a medical device for repair of a similar device; a form of reassignment.

Chemical safety: Measures taken to protect the user, patient and environment from any harmful effects of exposure to chemicals.

Chemical waste: Waste consisting of solid, liquid and/or gaseous chemicals that may be toxic, corrosive, inflammable, reactive and/or oxidizing.

Cleaning: A first step required to physically remove contamination by foreign material such as dust or soil; also, to remove organic material, such as blood, secretions, excretions and microorganisms, to prepare a medical device for disinfection or sterilization.

Controlled landfilling: Operating practices and design improvements to reduce the health and environmental impacts of waste disposal in landfills.

Decontamination: Removal of soil and pathogenic microorganisms from objects to make them safe to handle, subject to further processing, use or discard (3).

Decommissioning: Removal of medical devices from their originally intended uses in a health care facility to an alternative use or disposal.

Disinfection: Reduction of the number of microorganisms (but not usually of bacterial spores), without necessarily killing or removing all organisms, usually from non-living objects such as laboratory equipment and laboratory benches.

Disinvestment: Withdrawal of medical devices from the health care system on the basis of evidence that they are clinically ineffective, unsafe, inappropriate or not cost-effective.

Disposal: Intentional burial, deposit, discharge, dumping, placing or release of any waste material into or on air, land or water without the intention of retrieval. In the context of radioactive waste management, disposal is the placement of waste in an approved, specified facility (e.g. near-surface or geological repository) or approved direct discharge into the environment.

Donation: Giving an item or service free of charge

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