

Guyana Public Health Commodities and Equipment Donations Policy

The public health sector of Guyana has benefited from the generosity of donors across the globe. In order to facilitate donors in making effective donation to the public health sector and in order to facilitate the effective use of donated medicine, supplies and equipment, the Ministry of Health has established the following guidelines for donations to the sector.

These guidelines are in accordance with guidelines established by the World Health Organization (WHO).

While Guyana has benefited from donations, particularly in donated medicine, donated medicine, supplies and equipment have also caused much problem in the sector. Often, Guyana receives medicines that are expired or that have short shelf-lives. Often medicines received do not form part of the treatment protocols being used in Guyana and very often, Guyana receives medicines that are labeled in languages not understood by health care providers.

In terms of equipment, too often used equipment have no useful life left and these occupy storage space unnecessarily.

The Ministry of Health proposes the following policies as guidelines for donations of medicines, medical supplies and equipment. These are guidelines and can be varied with the expressed agreement between the donor and the recipient.

Guidelines on Donations of Medicine

1. All medicine donations should be based on stated needs of the country and should be relevant to the disease pattern of Guyana. In this regard, the donor should consult with the Ministry of Health or the intended recipient in Guyana.
2. Donations of medicines should always be sent with the prior consent of the Ministry of Health or the intended recipient in Guyana.
3. All donated medicines should be approved for use in Guyana and should be registered by the Food and Drug Analyst Department. The Ministry of Health or any other recipient should ensure the donor is facilitated in this regard.
4. The presentation, strength and formulation of donated medicine should, as much as possible, be similar to those of medicine used in Guyana.
5. All donated medicine should be obtained from reliable sources and should comply with quality standards of both the donor country and Guyana. Donated medicine should be approved for use in the country of origin.
6. No medicine should be donated that have been previously issued to patients and then returned or that have been issued to health professionals as free samples.
7. After arriving in Guyana, all donated medicine should have a self-life of at least one year. Exceptions could be made if the donor organization and the recipient in Guyana determine that the amount of medicine to be received could be utilized within the remaining shelf-life of the donated medicine.

8. All medicine should be labeled in English and should be easily understood by health professionals in Guyana. The label on the container should include the International Nonproprietary Name (INN) or generic name, batch number, dosage form, strength, name of manufacturer, quantity in container, storage conditions and expiry date.
9. As much as possible, donated medicine should be presented in larger quantity units and hospital packs.
10. All medicine donations should be packed in accordance with international shipping regulations and be accompanied by a detailed packing list which specifies the contents of each numbered carton by INN, dosage form, quantity, batch number, expiry date, volume, weight and any special storage conditions. Drugs should not be mixed with other items in the same cartons.
11. The value of medicine donation must be provided. In order to estimate the value of the donated medicine, consideration must be given to the cost of the generic equivalent in Guyana or to the wholesale world-wide generic cost of the medicine.
12. Cost of international and local transport, warehousing, port clearance and appropriate storage and handling should be paid for by the donor agency, unless specifically agreed otherwise with the Ministry of Health or the recipient in Guyana in advance.

Guideline for the Donation of Medical Supplies

1. All medicine supplies should be based on stated needs of the country and should be relevant to the health services provided in Guyana. In this regards, the donor should consult with the Ministry of Health or the intended recipient in Guyana.
2. Donations of medical supplies should always be sent with the prior consent of the Ministry of Health or the intended recipient in Guyana.
3. All donated medical supplies should be obtained from reliable sources and should comply with quality standards of both the donor country and Guyana.
4. No medical supply intended for disposable use, such as gloves and condoms, should be donated that have been previously issued for use to health care professionals or patients and then returned unless specifically verified as being unused.
5. After arriving in Guyana, all donated medical supplies with expiry date should have a self-life of at least one year. Exceptions could be made if the donor organization and the recipient in Guyana determine that the amount of medical supply to be received could be utilized within the remaining shelf-life of the donated medical supply.
6. All supplies should be labeled in English and should be easily understood by health professionals and other users in Guyana. The label on the container should include the name of the item, size (where applicable), batch number, name of manufacturer, quantity in container, storage conditions and expiry date (where applicable).
7. All medical supplies for donations should be packed in accordance with international shipping regulations and be accompanied by a detailed packing list which specifies the contents of each numbered carton by quantity, batch number, expiry date, volume, weight and any special storage conditions.
8. The value of medical supplies donation must be provided. In order to estimate the value of the donated medical supplies, consideration must be given to the cost of the equivalent supplies in Guyana or to the wholesale world-wide cost of the specific medical supply.
9. Cost of international and local transport, warehousing, port clearance and appropriate storage and handling should be paid for by the donor agency, unless specifically agreed otherwise with the Ministry of Health or the recipient in Guyana in advance.

Guideline for the Donation of New or Used Equipment

1. All equipment to be donated should be based on stated needs of the country and should be relevant to the health services provided in Guyana. In this regards, the donor should consult with the Ministry of Health or the intended recipient in Guyana.
2. Donations of medical equipment or other related equipment intended for use in the health sector should always be sent with the prior consent of the Ministry of Health or the intended recipient in Guyana.
3. All donated equipment should be obtained from reliable sources and should comply with quality standards of both the donor country and Guyana.
4. If equipment requires electricity for use, the electrical needs must be determined prior to shipping and donors must verify with recipients that the electrical needs could be met in Guyana.
5. After arriving in Guyana, all donated medical equipment should have a useful life of at least two years. Exceptions could be made if the donor organization and the recipient in Guyana determine that the equipment to be received could be utilized in the short term until a more permanent arrangement for similar equipment is put in place.
6. Each donated piece of equipment to be used in the health sector should have labels in English and should be easily understood by health professionals and other users in Guyana. The label on the container should include the name of the item, serial number, name of manufacturer.
7. Every donated piece of equipment should be packed in accordance with international shipping regulations and be accompanied by a detailed packing list which specifies the contents of each numbered carton by quantity, serial number, weight and any special storage conditions.
8. The value of the donated equipment must be provided. In order to estimate the value of the donated equipment, consideration must be given to the cost of the equivalent in Guyana or to the wholesale world-wide cost of the specific equipment. Value must take into consideration whether it is a used equipment or new.
9. Cost of international and local transport, warehousing, port clearance and appropriate storage and handling should be paid for by the donor agency, unless specifically agreed otherwise with the Ministry of Health or the recipient in Guyana in advance.