A patient-centric EU Green Deal:
Building sustainable, equitable and resilient healthcare systems

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MedTech Europe envisions a future where healthcare systems are financially and environmentally sustainable, equitable and resilient to future crises. This means that an increased focus on the link between climate, sustainability and health across all political areas has led to better health systems at preventing diseases, minimising interventions, optimising the patient pathway and increasing the number of healthy life years of European citizens. Besides, the healthcare sector has embedded sustainability across operations, innovations and supply chains. A thriving medical technology industry provides safe, sustainable, innovative solutions in a modern, resource-efficient, digitally enabled and competitive economy with ever-better patient pathways.

Currently, **the barriers to such a future remain manyfold** and include, among others, regulatory and policy barriers, a fragmentation of the regulatory framework, definitions and standards, a lack of harmonised tools and methodologies, a lack of safer alternatives, financial, technological and clinical barriers next to health budget austerity, workforce and skills shortages of staff, overall system inefficiencies or increased strains on complex global supply chains and geopolitics.

In our view, **transitioning to net zero in the healthcare sector** requires embracing sustainability holistically, meaning continuously improving performance while maintaining the highest health and safety standards to satisfy patients' healthcare needs. MedTech Europe issues **ten recommendations for a patient-centric EU Green Deal and the building of sustainable, equitable and resilient healthcare systems:**

1. **Foster collaboration and partnerships among all healthcare actors** to drive system change and continuously improve the social, environmental, and economic performance of healthcare systems.
2. **Leverage the transformational synergies of the Green and Digital agendas** to increase overall system efficiencies and sustainability performances.
3. Ensure that **future legislation is consistent with sector-specific regulatory requirements** and enhances the sustainability performance of medical technologies both from a life cycle and care continuum perspective.
4. **Truly harmonise rules to reinforce the European internal market**, the EU's strongest asset and catalyst of both a high level of environmental protection and a competitive medical technology industry in Europe.
5. **Boost a sustainable finance framework** to support and promote research & innovation for the development and use of e.g., alternative, sustainable and safe materials, efficiency technologies, sustainable packaging, circular products or business models, preventive care, digital twins, green software or AI models.
6. **Promote value-based procurement with a public sector that leads by example** through relevant, harmonised and holistic standards and guidelines in public procurement should be promoted to drive systemic change and enable tangible benefits for all.

7. **Remove regulatory, financial, administrative and other barriers** to enhance sustainability solutions in existing legislation (e.g., eIFU, properly funded EU and national health budgets). Reporting requirements should be streamlined to be workable and fit for purpose.

8. Develop **realistic, patient-centric, and economically viable transition pathways that allow sufficient time for medical technology manufacturers, including their manufacturing supply chains, to transition** so that patients and practitioners can rely on uninterrupted access to medical technologies.

9. Enable **a patient-centric circular economy and develop safe and sustainable design policies for people and planetary health** that simplify chemical assessment processes, ensure better consistency, coherence with sectoral legislation and highest patient outcomes.

10. **Develop and use standards in support of the green transition**

About MedTech Europe

MedTech Europe is the European trade association for the medical technology industry including diagnostics, medical devices and digital health. Our members are national, European and multinational companies as well as a network of national medical technology associations who research, develop, manufacture, distribute and supply health-related technologies, services and solutions. www.medtecheurope.org.

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