

MedTech Europe Diabetes Sector Committee's Position on the Safe Hearts Plan

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The [EU Safe Hearts Plan](#) represents the European Union's most comprehensive initiative to date to strengthen action on cardiovascular health. Released in response to calls from Member States and the European Parliament for stronger, more coordinated EU-level engagement, the Plan aims to prioritise targeted, evidence-based measures that add value at EU level and support countries in addressing major health challenges.

The Diabetes Sector Committee (DSC) of MedTech Europe welcomes the Safe Hearts Plan's explicit recognition of the close and growing interlinkages between cardiovascular diseases (CVD) and diabetes. By positioning diabetes as a major cardiovascular risk factor and public health priority, the Plan acknowledges the critical role of early detection, effective long-term management and integrated care in reducing cardiovascular burden and improving outcomes for people living with diabetes.

Building on this recognition, effective implementation of the Safe Hearts Plan by the EU and Member States will be essential to translating its ambitions into real progress in prevention, early diagnosis, and long-term care, including through the full integration of diabetes into forthcoming actions and operational initiatives. In this context, recognising medical technologies as essential enablers of early detection, personalised care, and ongoing management will help maximise the Plan's impact for people living with diabetes, while supporting the sustainability of healthcare systems across the EU.

Headline assessment of the Safe Hearts Plan

The Diabetes Sector Committee welcomes the Safe Hearts Plan and its ambition to reduce cardiovascular burden across the EU. The Plan provides a strong and coherent framework that recognises the importance of diabetes and consistently integrates diabetes considerations into its analysis of cardiovascular risk, prevention, early detection and care.

In particular, the DSC welcomes:

- The clear positioning of **diabetes as a core cardiovascular risk factor and priority condition**, explicitly linked to cardiovascular burden and outcomes
- The strong emphasis on **early detection of diabetes**, including explicit targets for glucose measurement as part of cardiovascular risk assessment
- The explicit recognition that **medical and diabetes technologies play an essential role in cardiovascular care**, including for diabetes prevention, monitoring and management
- The focus on **personalised, integrated and multidisciplinary care pathways**, which are essential for effective long-term diabetes management and the prevention of cardiovascular complications

- The commitment to **digital health, data, AI and research and innovation**, alongside actions to address inequalities affecting vulnerable groups, women and young people

The Safe Hearts Plan provides a solid framework to advance cardiometabolic, integrated care across Europe. Its success, however, will depend on implementing a coherent cardio-metabolic approach that links prevention, early detection and long-term management.

The Diabetes Sector Committee's recommendations for implementation

1. Early detection and health checks

The DSC strongly supports the Safe Hearts Plan's focus on early detection and welcomes the proposed **Council Recommendation on an EU protocol for health checks for cardiovascular diseases (2026)** as a key opportunity to improve outcomes.

The Diabetes Sector Committee considers it essential that:

- Diabetes screening, including blood sugar measurement, is **systematically embedded** in the EU protocol for health checks
- Health checks are **risk-based and population-appropriate**, taking into account age, socio-economic factors, comorbidities and other determinants of risk
- Early detection is linked to **timely referral, treatment initiation and long-term disease management**, rather than functioning as a standalone intervention

Well-designed and inclusive health checks can support earlier diagnosis of diabetes, prevent disease progression and reduce long-term cardiovascular complications.

2. Personalised and integrated care pathways

The DSC welcomes the planned **Council Recommendation on personalised and integrated care pathways (2027)** and the emphasis on people-centred, multidisciplinary care models.

For diabetes, personalised care is intrinsically linked to the appropriate access to and use of medical technologies. The Committee therefore underlines that:

- Medical technologies are **key enablers of personalised diabetes care**, supporting continuous monitoring, treatment optimisation and self-management
- Digital and AI-enabled solutions can help **integrate care across settings and improve coordination** between healthcare professionals
- Integrated care pathways should support **lifelong management of chronic conditions**, including diabetes, to reduce complications and hospitalisations

Future EU guidance should explicitly reflect the role of diabetes technologies within personalised and integrated care pathways. Guidance should also cover the full cardio-metabolic continuum (CVD, diabetes, obesity) and recognise that access to medical and diabetes technologies, as well as digital tools, is essential to enable optimal monitoring, treatment, self-management and care coordination across settings.

3. Supporting Member States through the “EU Cares for Your Heart” programme

The proposed **EU Cares for Your Heart programme**, supporting Member States in developing or strengthening national cardiovascular health plans by 2027, is an important lever to translate EU ambitions into national action.

The DSC considers that national plans supported under this programme should:

- Fully reflect the role of diabetes in cardiovascular prevention and care
- Promote integrated diabetes-cardio approaches across screening, treatment and long-term management
- Support improved access to medical technologies and digital solutions that enable effective and sustainable diabetes care

4. Research, innovation, data and digital health

The Diabetes Sector Committee welcomes initiatives to strengthen research and innovation, including the **AI and Digital Innovation Incubator** and the initiative to **close the cardiovascular research gap**, with their explicit relevance for diabetes and cardio-metabolic diseases.

To maximise impact, the DSC highlights the importance of:

- Investing in research on diabetes mechanisms, personalised risk prediction and treatment optimisation
- Improving the quality, interoperability and representativeness of diabetes and cardiovascular datasets and registries
- Enabling collaboration between healthcare systems, researchers and medical technology developers to accelerate translation into clinical practice

The DSC stands ready to contribute diabetes-relevant expertise, tools and data to support these efforts.

5. Stakeholder collaboration and expert engagement

The Safe Hearts Plan rightly recognises that progress requires multi-stakeholder collaboration. The proposed **network of cardiovascular and diabetes experts** represents a valuable opportunity to support implementation and knowledge exchange.

The Diabetes Sector Committee encourages policymakers to ensure that:

- All relevant stakeholders are involved, including those who develop and manufacture the medical technologies used in diabetes prevention, diagnosis and treatment
- Expert platforms support evidence-based policymaking and reflect real-world care pathways and innovation cycles across the full cardio-metabolic continuum (CVD - diabetes - obesity)

Inclusive stakeholder engagement is essential to ensure that policies remain aligned with patient needs and technological progress.

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.

The **Diabetes Sector Committee of MedTech Europe** and represents companies developing medical technologies that support the prevention, diagnosis, monitoring and effective management of diabetes. The Committee is dedicated to improving outcomes and quality of life for people living with diabetes – including type 1 and type 2 diabetes – through timely diagnosis, personalised care, and appropriate access to safe, effective and innovative medical technologies.

The DSC promotes policies that support early detection, long-term disease management, prevention of complications, and integrated care pathways, recognising the close interlinkages between diabetes, cardiovascular diseases and other chronic conditions. Medical technologies, including connected devices, diagnostics, digital tools and data-driven solutions, play a central role in enabling people-centred, efficient and sustainable diabetes care.

<https://www.medtecheurope.org/diabetes/>