

WHAT IS A MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY?

DEFINITION OF A MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY

Under Health Canada's *Food and Drugs Act* (the "Act"), a "device" is defined as any article, instrument, apparatus or contrivance, including any component, part or accessory thereof, manufactured, sold or represented for use in:

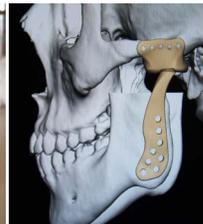
1. the diagnosis, treatment, mitigation or prevention of a disease, disorder or abnormal physical state, or its symptoms, in human beings or animals,
2. restoring, correcting or modifying a body function or the body structure of human beings or animals,
3. the diagnosis of pregnancy in human beings or animals, or
4. the care of human beings or animals during pregnancy and at and after birth of the offspring, including care of the offspring, and includes a contraceptive device but does not include a drug.¹



EXAMPLES OF MEDICAL TECHNOLOGIES

A medical technology can be anything from a tongue depressor to an MRI scanner. There are thousands of products in the medical technology industry such as:

- Pacemakers
- Artificial heart valves
- Diagnostic equipment
- Dialysis equipment
- Hip and knee implants
- Synthetic skin
- Scalpels and other surgical tools
- Infusion pumps
- Life support machines
- Catheters
- Bandages
- Information and Communications Technology (ie: software, IT, handheld devices, etc)
- And many, many more...



As defined in the *Medical Devices Regulation*, a "medical device" means a device within the meaning of the Act, but does not include any device that is intended for use in relation to animals (*instrument medical*).²

¹ Health Canada, *Drug and Health Products*, http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/dhp-mps/md-im/activiti/announce-annonce/md_notice_software_im_avis_logiciels-eng.php

² Ibid

³ Baxter, http://www.baxter.ca/en/about_baxter/company_profile/history.html

⁴ Baylis Medical Group, <http://www.baylismedicalcanada.com/pages/corporate/history.html>



MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY'S ROLE IN THE HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

For more than 40 years, MEDEC and its members have worked closely with the federal and provincial-territorial governments and other health partners to deliver critical health solutions enabled by medical technology.

From the discovery of the world's first home-based dialysis therapy³ to the Medical Radio Frequency Puncture Generator to treat newborns with heart defect⁴, MEDEC members are transforming the lives of patients, here and abroad, and supporting the long-term sustainability of our healthcare system. Benefits for patients and the health system include: less invasive procedures; extended and improved quality of life; reduction in hospital stays or in other facilities; earlier and more accurate diagnosis of disease; and improved patient safety.

Canada's vibrant medtech industry also serves as an important economic driver by attracting investments to support research and commercialization; creating start-up companies and highly-skilled jobs; and through the recruitment and retention of top entrepreneurial, research and clinical talent.

As the only national voice of Canada's medical technology industry, MEDEC is committed to helping serve the emerging needs of Canadian patients because we know that is the only way to ensure a vibrant and competitive medical technology industry in Canada...today and into the future.



CANADA'S MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY COMPANIES
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