SADiM-MERCOSUR: A Digital Tool for Technical Evaluation of Medical Devices in Public Procurement

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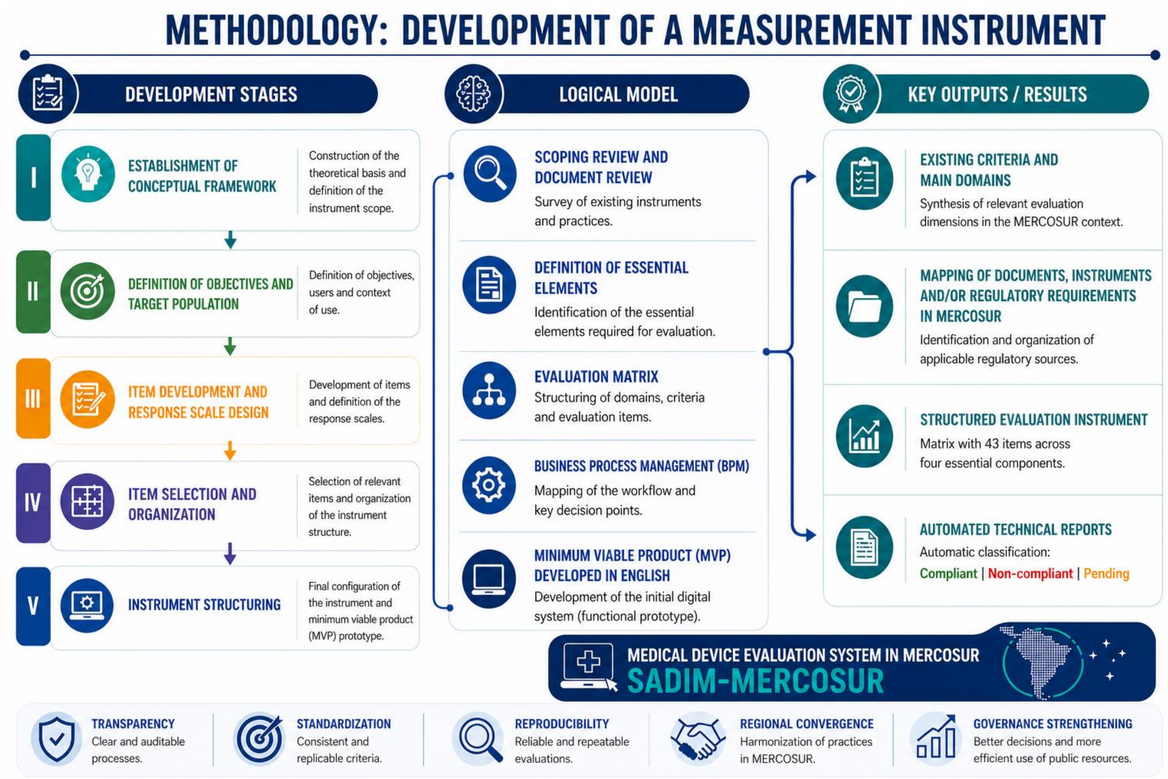
The Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR) is an economic bloc composed of Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay and Bolivia, aimed at promoting regional integration through the facilitation of trade and economic development with social equity, reducing barriers between member countries(1). The countries of the bloc adopt bidding processes for public procurement, which, although governed by national regulations, share general principles guided by MERCOSUR. These processes involve essential steps, such as defining technical specifications, quantities, supply conditions and proposal evaluation criteria, usually established by the requesting institution(2). In the case of medical devices, in addition to the requirements common to other public procurement, specific regulatory requirements such as product registration(3) must be complied with.

Despite the progress in regional integration and the existence of guiding documents within MERCOSUR, they remain in facilitating the evaluation of technical criteria. In this context, the development of structured instruments, combined with digital solutions, emerges as a promising strategy to improve this process, increasing the standardization, transparency and traceability of evaluations.

Thus, this article aimed to develop an instrument for the technical evaluation of single-use medical devices, in digital format, aimed at public procurement processes within the scope of MERCOSUR.



SADiM-MERCOSUL

Structuring stage

Definition of items.
Verification of compliance.
Approval of items that meet the prerequisites.

Registration: user, suppliers, items, categories, bidding process and questions.

Assessment stage

The system enables structured technical evaluation through standardized items covering regulatory compliance, alignment with technical specifications, and functional performance, with the possibility of adding criteria according to the classification of the medical device. It also generates structured reports for each procurement process, detailing the evaluations performed for each item.

The evaluation workflow is organized by user roles, assigning specific responsibilities to each professional across different stages of the process. Based on predefined criteria, devices are classified as compliant, non-compliant, or pending, ensuring consistency, transparency, and traceability in decision-making.

CONCLUSIONS:

The preliminary version of SADIM-MERCOSUR demonstrates the feasibility of a digital tool that enhances transparency, standardization, and reproducibility in evaluating medical devices in MERCOSUR public procurement. By supporting harmonized assessment practices, the system contributes to improved governance of acquisition processes and may serve as a platform for regional collaboration and alignment in health technology assessment.

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