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# National Strategy for cardiovascular diseases, stroke, and diabetes 2017–2024

## The strategy in short

Today, diseases of the heart and the vascular system, stroke and diabetes significantly increase the burden of disease in Switzerland. They cause premature deaths and boost the ever rising costs in the health sector. Yet, many of the underlying risk factors can be effectively mitigated by prevention and targeted early detection. In addition, evidence-based and patient-centered healthcare can reduce the suffering of those concerned and improve their quality of life.

The Swiss Federal Office of Public Health and the Conference of Cantonal Health Directors encourage disease-specific strategies complementing the «National Strategy for the Prevention of Non-communicable diseases 2017–2024» (NCD-strategy). So far, no disease-specific strategy for cardiovascular diseases and diabetes exists in Switzerland. A funding body of the relevant organisations (Swiss Heart Foundation, Swiss Society of Cardiology, Union of Vascular Societies of Switzerland and its member societies, Swiss Stroke Society and the various diabetes organisations) has taken up the initiative to close this gap with the development of the «National Strategy for cardiovascular diseases, stroke, and diabetes 2017–2024». This strategy was developed in an interprofessional and interdisciplinary, participative process under the leadership of the network CardioVasc Suisse. Beside a large number of professional societies and organisations from the healthcare system, patient organisations, leagues and other relevant actors were involved.

The strategy defines strategic priorities and creates a common framework for action. This way, existing resources can be better pooled, resulting in higher efficiency and giving more weight to political demands of the involved societies and organisations. At the level of healthcare provision, this strategy shall be implemented in a patient-centered way, putting the needs and often complex situations of the concerned person in the center.

As Switzerland has one of the highest developed healthcare systems worldwide, the strategy can build on the existing and focus on the most important gaps. Often enough, common priorities were identified with a high relevance for all involved actors. All priorities of the strategy are listed in chapter 4. In short, they can be summarized as follows:

### **Priorities of the «National Strategy for cardiovascular diseases, stroke, and diabetes 2017–2024»**

- Strengthen prevention and early detection
- Promote high-quality, integrated and patient-centered care for chronically ill and multimorbid patients
- Optimise acute care of heart attack and stroke
- Reinforce coordination and cooperation at all levels
- Improve the available data(bases) for Switzerland
- Close funding gaps and improve the health policy framework

The strategic tables in the annex reflect concrete objectives and measures in view of the strategic priorities. They outline the common frame of action for the coming eight years. Interprofessional and interdisciplinary groups shall implement the strategy. Special attention will be given to a good coordination among the relevant stakeholders, such as primary healthcare providers, but also with the NCD-strategy and other relevant initiatives.

With regards to the implementation of the decided actions, the actors will organise themselves to ensure a coordinated and concerted approach over the coming years. The progress of the implementation will be reported on periodically.

*The full version of this strategy is available in German and French. All documents, including this present summary as well as its Italian version, can be downloaded from the website of CardioVasc Suisse under [www.cardiovascsuisse.ch/strategie](http://www.cardiovascsuisse.ch/strategie)*