

# WITHOUT HEPARIN, THERE'S NO MODERN MEDICINE

To reduce morbidity and mortality among patients in Cuba by strengthening local production capacity for low molecular weight sodium heparin (LMWH).



## A Timeline of Progress

- **2021 - Emergency Importation:** During the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic, mediCuba-Europe, in collaboration with mediCuba-Switzerland and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), provided €200,000 for the emergency importation of sodium heparin, enabling the purchase of approximately 42,000 doses.
- **2022-2023 - Laying the Foundation:** mediCuba-Europe invested €466,000 to support AICA Laboratories in gaining the capacity to produce injectable LMWH in Cuba. In August 2023, the product received accreditation from Cuba's regulatory body.

## A Vision for the Future

Now entering its third phase, the project aims to close the cycle of reliance on imports by ensuring large-scale local production of this essential medication. **The projected output of 200,000 doses per phase (2024-2025)** will cover 15% of Cuba's annual demand. At an estimated production cost of less than €1 per dose compared to €3.92 for imported doses, this initiative represents a 75% cost reduction, saving nearly €600,000 per phase. The demonstrated viability and affordability are expected to encourage Cuban health authorities to prioritize local production.

### Expected outcomes

- ✓ **Prove Local Production Capacity:** Produce 200,000 doses of 40mg and 60mg LMWH during each project phase
- ✓ **Skill Development:** Train at least 70 specialists to oversee production and administer the medication
- ✓ **Ensure Quality:** Demonstrate the quality of locally produced LMWH, ensuring it meets international standards



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## Budget

Year 1	Year 2	Total
€ 170 000,00	€ 185 000,00	€ 355 000,00

## Duration

Phase 1 | July - December 2024

Phase 2 | January - December 2025

**Local Partner:** AICA Laboratories



## Nationwide Reach

## Impact

- **Beneficiaries:** Approximately 100,000 Cuban health system patients requiring LMWH annually
- **Sectors Served:** Specialized hospital services in oncology, orthopedics, hematology, and immunology across Cuba.
- **Economic and Scientific Gains:** Strengthen Cuba's national pharmaceutical industry and BioCubaFarma research centers, with trained professionals managing production and application.
- **Global Potential:** Millions of patients in other Global South countries could access this essential medication at fair prices

## SAVING LIVES AND COSTS

With potential annual savings of €3.6 million for 1.2 million doses, this initiative not only reduces dependency on imports but also reinforces Cuba's ability to sustain its health system and benefit other low-income nations

**3.6  
MILLION  
EURO**

*"Heparin is the world's most widely used anticoagulant and antithrombotic medication and is considered essential in numerous medical specialties"*