

## **COVID-19 Rehabilitation Specialist Needed for Deployment Opportunities in the WHO Africa Region**

### **Background**

COVID-19 can result in both acute and long-term complications that are highly amenable to rehabilitation. Rehabilitation has a role in the management of severe or critically ill COVID-19 patients, can reduce length of stay, and improve short- and long-term health outcomes. However, many countries do not routinely include rehabilitation considerations during ICU/critical care, and have not established services or pathways for post-ICU rehabilitation or longer term follow up of patients recovering from COVID-19.

Under the coordination of the WHO Emergency Medical Teams Secretariat, CRIMEDIM are seeking highly experienced healthcare professionals with experience of the clinical management of severe and critical COVID-19 patients to provide technical and operational support and enhance the capacity of managing COVID-19 pandemic in the WHO African Region.

Rehabilitation support from a technical specialist, deployed at the request of a Ministry of Health, may include:

- A) Integration of rehabilitation considerations into acute care for severe or critically ill patients – Rehabilitation interventions can help address many consequences of severe COVID-19, including physical, cognitive, and swallow impairments. Support may include training of rehabilitation staff where present, or the upskilling of other members of the multi-disciplinary team to incorporate rehabilitation interventions into their management
- B) Working with service providers to develop post-acute rehabilitation services (or step down care) to support the decompression of acute care, speed and optimize recovery, facilitate safe early discharge and reduce the risk of readmission.
- C) Working with service providers to establish rehabilitation services for the follow up and effective rehabilitation of patients with Post COVID-19 condition.

### **Essential for all (in addition to the [general criteria](#))**

- At least 5 years post graduate experience
- Experience and understanding of working in low or middle income setting
- Current license to practice or professional registration in home country
- Experience in a training or education role
- Experience of working in COVID-19 preparedness or response in your home country or internationally.

### **Essential for ICU specialists:**

- Physiotherapist
- At least 12 months of ICU experience
- Experience of treating COVID-19 patients in an ICU setting

### **Essential for post-acute/stepdown specialists:**

- Physiotherapist, Occupational Therapist, Speech Therapist or Rehabilitation Medicine Specialist.
- At least 12 months experience working with post ICU or critical care patients
- Experience of treating COVID-19 patients following critical illness

### **Essential for Post-COVID-19 specialists:**

- Physiotherapist, Occupational Therapist, Speech Therapist or Rehabilitation Medicine Specialist.
- Experience of establishing services for the long term follow up and rehabilitation of patients with Post COVID-19 condition.

Note that although the minimum deployment is 2 weeks, priority will be given to candidates that can deploy for longer.

For more information, and to register your interest, please follow [this link](#).