

LatAm Healthcare Pulse

Key data and perspectives on **patient care**

Colombia

GHI has been monitoring health care trends in Latin America throughout the COVID-19 crisis, interviewing physicians, surgeons and medical staff on a regular basis to understand how the pandemic, global market supply chains, and government policy are affecting patient health outcomes and healthcare market dynamics.

In this brief, we report key insights and local medical perspectives from Colombia in the first quarter of 2020, from primary research conducted with experts in cardiology, neurology, orthopedics, and other areas of general surgery.

General

- General, non-emergency surgeries have fallen across the board, by an estimated 50%.
- Hospitals expect to regain pre-pandemic patient and procedure volumes gradually by the end quarter of 2020, depending on the pace of vaccination.
- Many hospitals in Colombia report a net increase in surgical procedures due to changes in critical supplies, such as anesthesia, infection gear, and critical medical devices. These changes are from quality-regulated hospitals and clinics in smaller urban centers.
- Many hospitals will have to retask since the onset of the pandemic: in-use medical equipment suppliers should prepare for bulk orders and product deliveries with sufficient inventory when public health and hospital budgets are directed for 2020.

- Patient and procedure volumes for specialized and urgent surgeries have remained stable since the pandemic, however, have been postponed, including in such specialties as orthopedic surgery and cardiovascular interventions.

"Costs have moved due to the pandemic. Most of the surgeries that were performed were emergency procedures and we had to use the supplies that were in stock or that could be obtained at the time."

—Caparróspita Surgen, large private hospital, Bogotá, Colombia (March 2020)