



Caribbean  
Public Health  
Agency

**CARPHA**

Preventing disease  
Promoting and protecting health

# The Agency

- Merger of five (5) previous regional health institutions
  - Caribbean Environmental Health Institute (CEHI)
  - Caribbean Epidemiology Centre (CAREC)
  - Caribbean Food and Nutrition Institute (CFNI)
  - Caribbean Health Research Council (CHRC)
  - Caribbean Regional Drug Testing Laboratory (CRDTL)
- An institution of the CARICOM Community
- Established by Inter-Governmental Agreement, signed in July 2011 by Heads of State



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# Its Development

- Heads of Government in 2002 instructed the review of the 5 RHIs to identify ways to improve governance and achieve greater efficiency and synergies
- A number of consultant reports as well as regional and national stakeholder meetings.
- After reviewing various models, decision to join the five institutions and create a brand new Agency
  - To also address critical public health services not previously covered e.g. health response to emergencies



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# Governance of CARPHA

- COHSOD of Health Ministers
  - Main governing body
- Executive Board
  - reports to the COHSOD
  - Comprises Ministers (4), CMOs (2), PS (2), CCS, PAHO
- Technical Advisory Committee
  - CMOs (6), Caribbean Universities (1), partner public health agencies (3)

# Member Countries

- Anguilla,
- Antigua & Barbuda,
- Aruba,
- Bahamas,
- Barbados,
- Belize,
- Bermuda,
- BES Islands (Bonaire, Saba & St. Eustatius),
- British Virgin Islands,
- Cayman Islands,
- Curacao
- Dominica
- Grenada
- Haiti
- Guyana
- Jamaica
- Montserrat
- St. Kitts & Nevis
- St. Maarten
- St. Vincent & the Grenadines
- Suriname
- Trinidad & Tobago
- Turks & Caicos Is

# Its Purpose

- To work with countries and other stakeholders to:
  - Improve well-being & socio-economic development
  - More effective coordination of resources
  - Respond to burden of CDs and NCDs
  - Enhance public health response to disease outbreaks, natural disasters and emergencies
  - Reduce economic impact of disease outbreaks
- Increased productivity through healthy workforce
- Healthy regional environment



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# Our Mission

To provide strategic direction in analysing, defining and responding to public health priorities of CARICOM, in order to prevent disease, promote health and respond to public health emergencies.



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# Our Functions

- Leadership in public health
- Information, education and communication
- Research, policy development and evaluation
- Laboratory reference and referral services
- Surveillance and health analysis
- Health promotion
- Human resources development and training
- Strategic planning and resource mobilization
- Monitoring relevant global agreements
- Health emergency preparedness and response



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# Our Priorities

- Non-Communicable Diseases and Obesity
- Infectious diseases, including HIV/AIDS
- International Health Regulations
- Injuries and Violence
- Environmental Health
- Tourism and Health

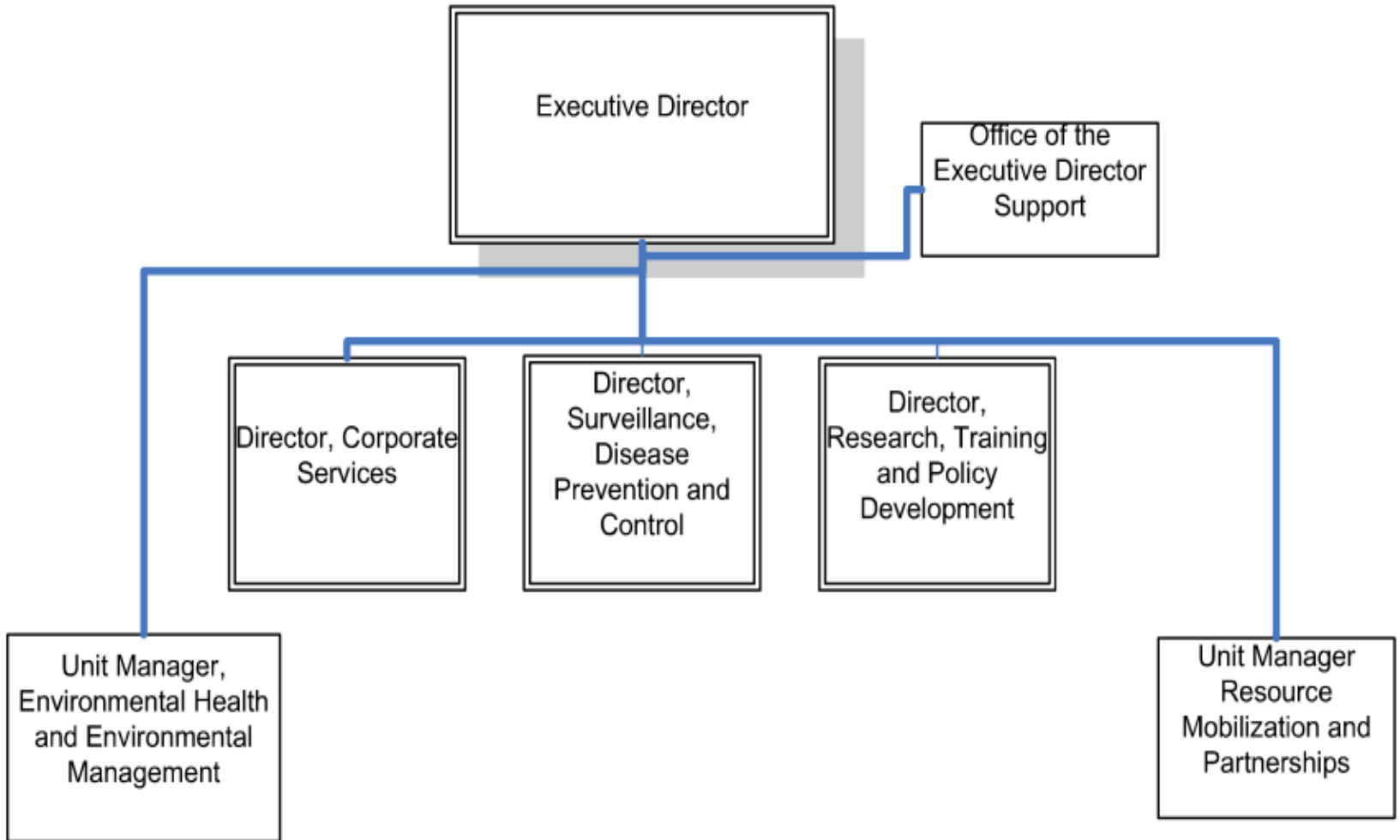
# ORGANOGRAM

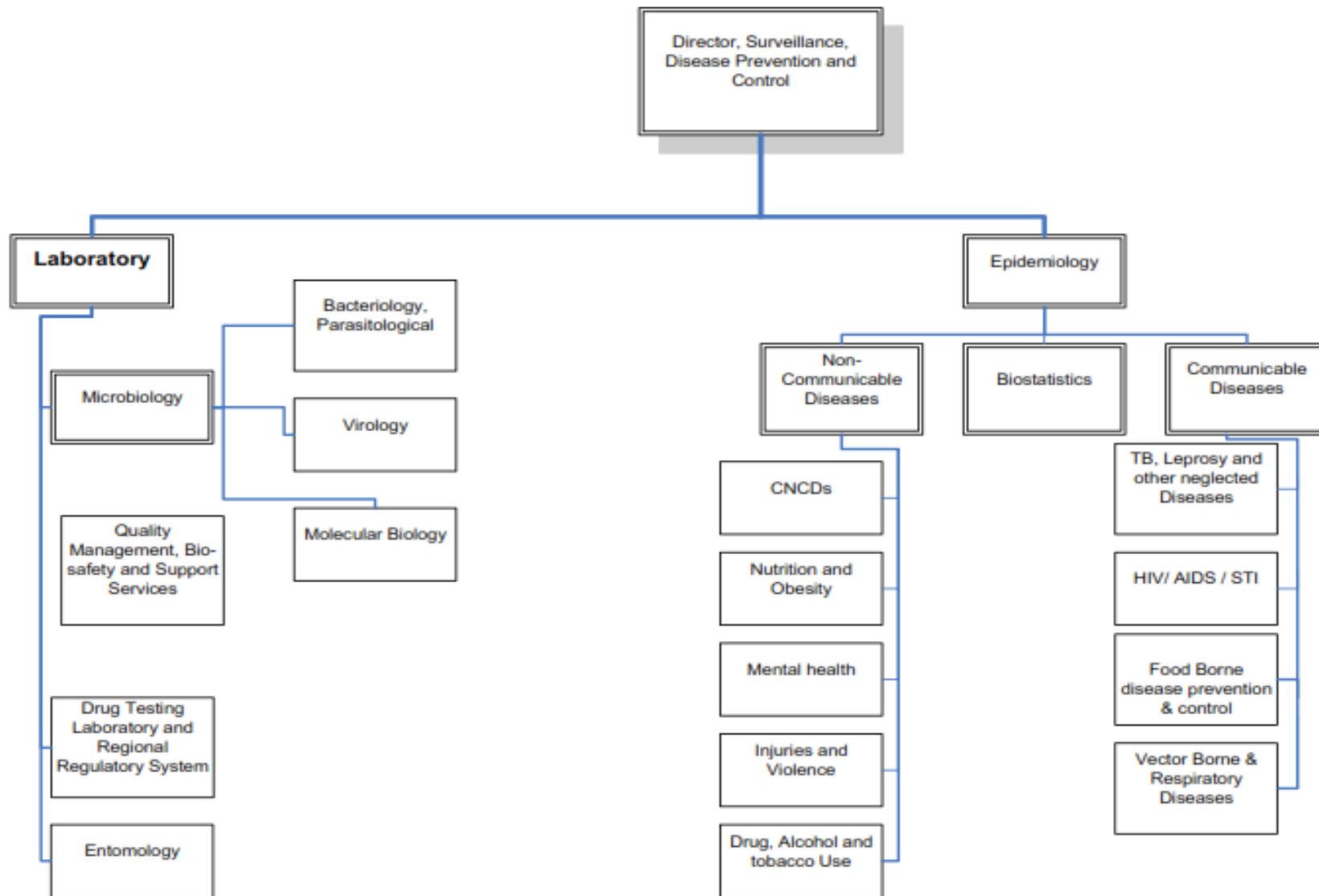


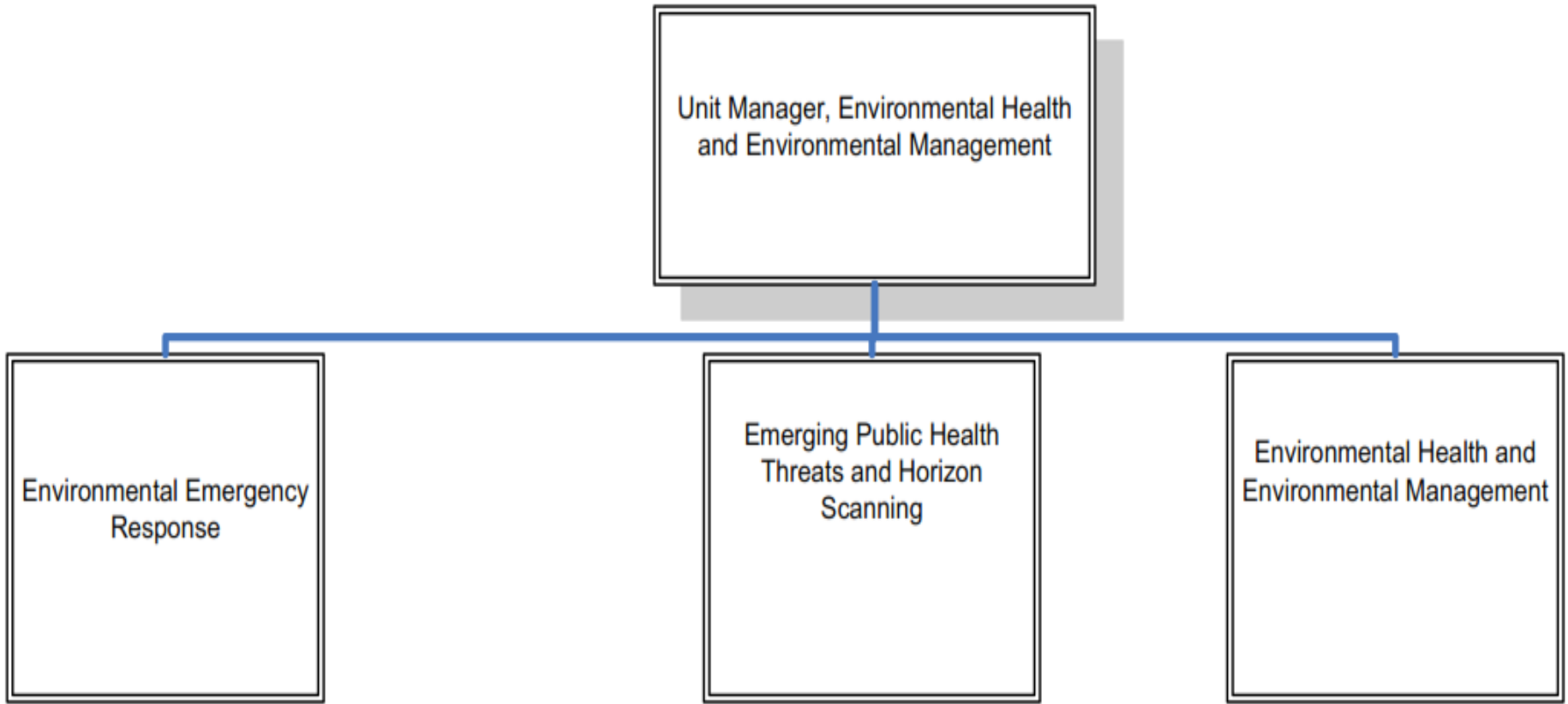
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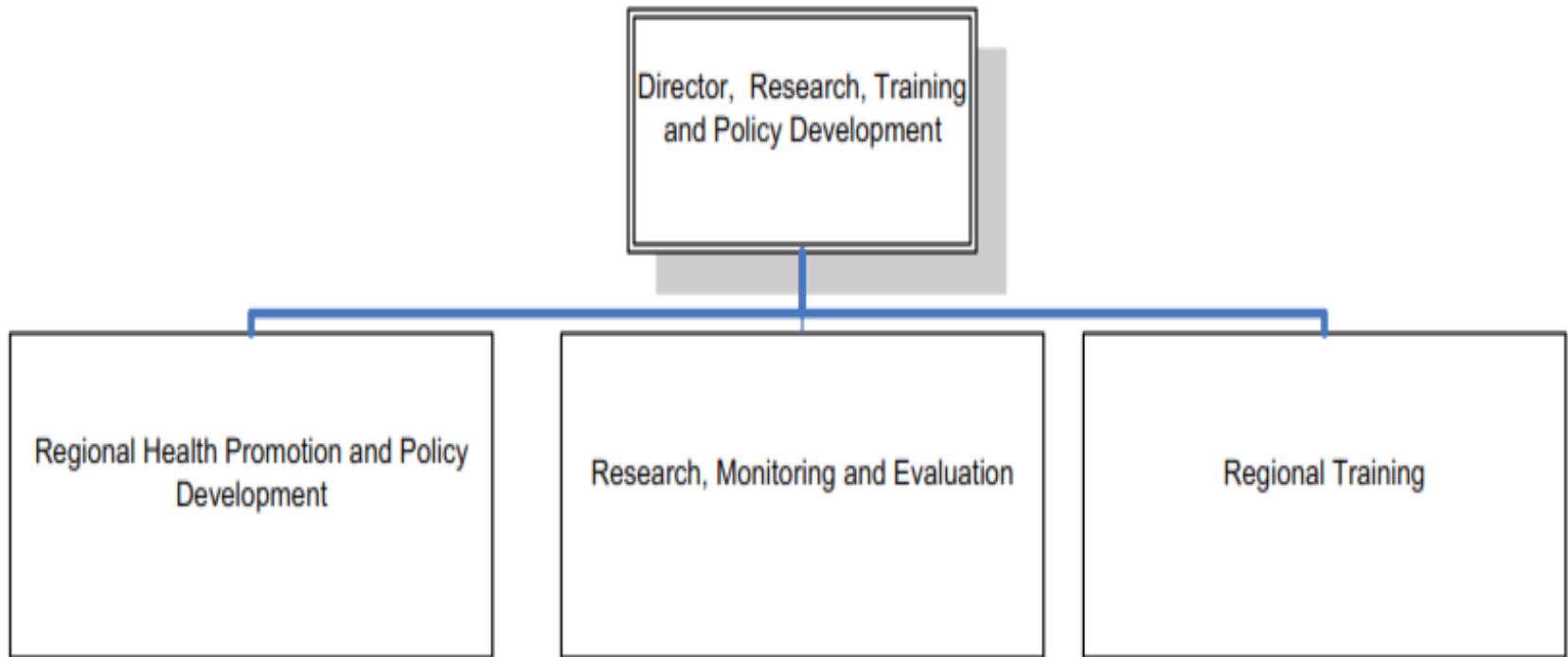
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# Research at CARPHA

- Policy developed and adopted by the CARPHA Board
- All CHRC functions (and staff) included
  - Advise Governments and other stakeholders on research for health and on M&E matters
  - Strengthen health research and M&E systems
  - Build and strengthen national and regional M&E systems
  - Sharing of Region's scientific outputs
  - Facilitate the development of evidence-based health policy
  - Facilitate evidence based practice
  - Develop national and regional capacity in health research and M&E
- New functions



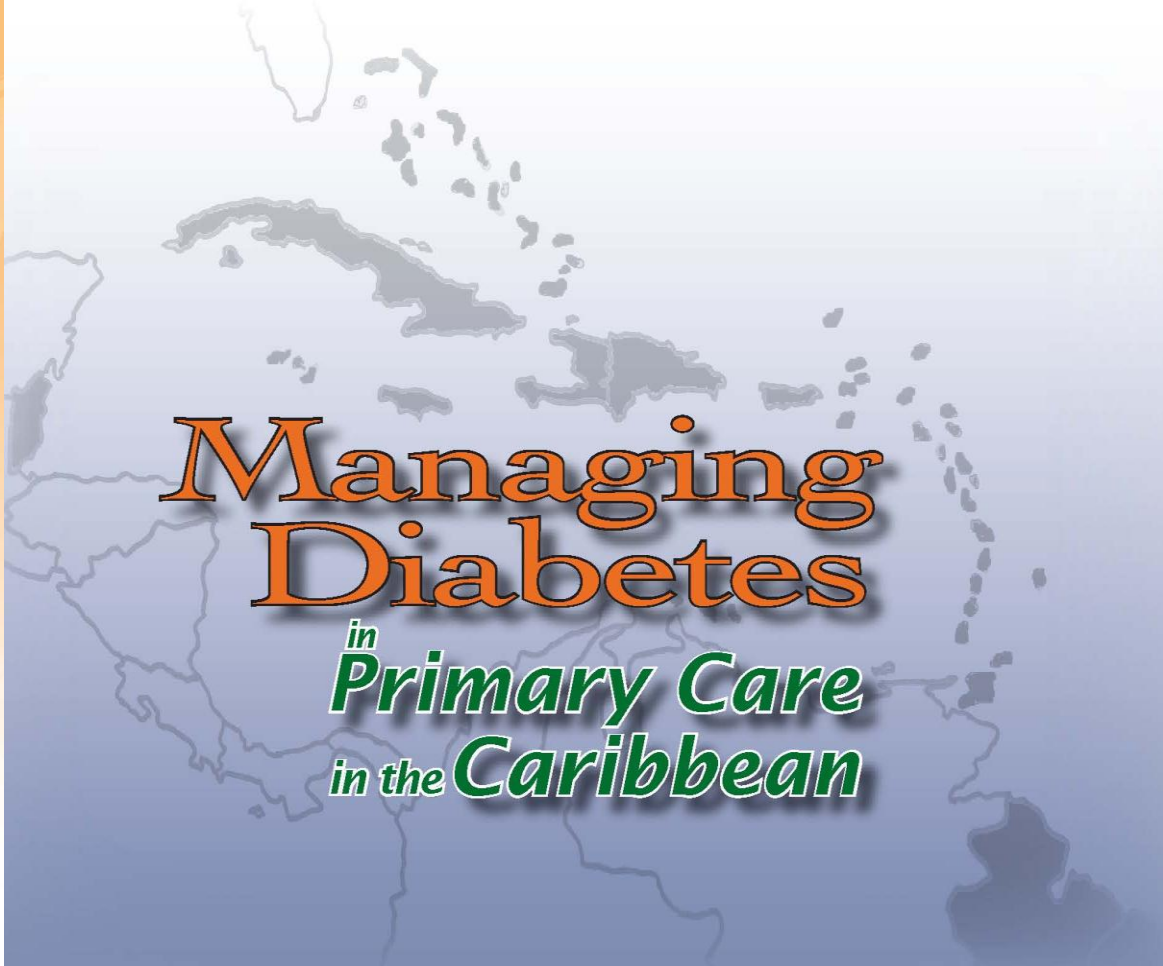
» Research Ethics Committee

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# Clinical Guidelines

- Process
  - Need identified by CMOs
  - Guidelines Committees comprising regional experts
  - Drafts reviewed by MOH, professional associations
  - Launched and disseminated
  - Follow up?
- Types
  - Diabetes (1995, 2005), Hypertension (1998, 2006), Asthma (1997, 2009), Depression (2010), Maternal Care in Pregnancy (2013)
  - Pocket editions (DM, Hypertension, Asthma)
  - Patient (Asthma)





# Managing Diabetes

*in  
Primary Care  
in the Caribbean*





# Managing Hypertension

*in Primary Care in the Caribbean*



# MANAGING ASTHMA IN THE CARIBBEAN



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# Managing Depression

**in Primary Care in the Caribbean**



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2011 Pocket Edition of CHRC/PAHO

# Managing Diabetes in Primary Care in the Caribbean



Working in collaboration with  
Johns Hopkins Medicine

The complete ©2008 guidelines are available at:  
<http://www.chrc-caribbean.org/Guidelines.php>



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# Management of CARPHA

- Executive Management Team
  - Executive Director – James Hospedales
  - Deputy Executive Director – Donald Simeon
  - Director of Corporate Services – Jenner Caprice
  - Director of Surveillance – *Babatunde Olowokure*
- Department Management Team
  - Department managers



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# CARPHA Headquarters

- Trinidad and Tobago Government has committed to hosting CARPHA
- Structure being designed
- Drug Testing Lab to remain in Jamaica
- Environmental health remains in St Lucia until headquarters built

# Current Situation at CARPHA

- Started operations from January 1, 2013 on 4 campuses (in T&T, St Lucia and Jamaica)
- Started to fulfill mandate
  - Provision of services
    - E.g. outbreak investigations
  - Annual Research Conference
    - Over 200 delegates
    - Research to Policy meeting on Childhood Obesity
  - To develop Strategic Plan
- Building partnerships
  - Such as Caribbean Branch of US Cochrane Center, UWI, etc.

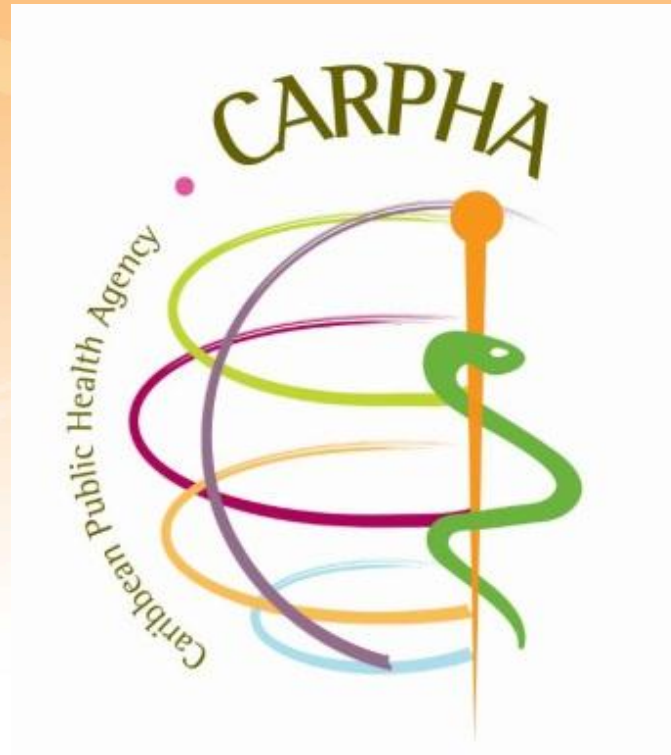


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# Looking Forward

- Many challenges
  - Five institutions into one
  - Staffing and funding constraints, etc.
- Expectations are high
- Great interest by many partners
- Success depends on stakeholders making their contributions



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