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International Association for the Study of Pain

IASP

Working together for pain relief

November 28, 2016

To Whom It May Concern:

The International Association for the Study of Pain and its affiliated chapters listed below strongly support the inclusion of gabapentin for the management of neuropathic pain in the WHO Model List of Essential Medicines.

Currently, amitriptyline is the only medicine that the WHO Model List of Essential Medicines recommends as a first or second-line treatment in the management of neuropathic pain. Unfortunately, limiting treatment to amitriptyline reduces medical options when initial treatment fails or contraindications arise.

IASP and each organization below believe it is important to include gabapentin on the WHO list because of its proven efficacy in managing neuropathic pain. Moreover, gabapentin can be used alone or in combination with amitriptyline; it is available off-patent worldwide; and it is a cost-effective treatment for many conditions.

IASP and the 30 affiliated chapters below champion pain relief worldwide, and represent pain researchers and clinicians across six continents and a full range of low-, middle-, and high-income economies. We urge the 21st Expert Committee on the Selection and Use of Essential Medicines to look favorably on the application by the International Association for the Study of Pain and the International Association for Hospice and Palliative Care that seeks inclusion of gabapentin for the treatment of neuropathic pain on the WHO Model List of Essential Medicines.

Sincerely,

Judith A. Turner, PhD
President

IASP is a tax-exempt, nonprofit organization.

IASP Chapters around the world in support of the adding gabapentin to the Essential Medicines List

American Pain Society
Asociación Chilena para el Estudio del Dolor (ACHED) [Chile]
Asociación Dominicana para el Estudio y Tratamiento del Dolor y Cuidados Paliativos [Dominican Republic]
Asociación Istmeña para el Estudio del Dolor (AIPED) [Panama]
Australian Pain Society
Austrian Pain Society (Österreichische Schmerzgesellschaft ÖSG)
Bangladesh Society for Study of Pain (BSSP)
Belgian Pain Society (BPS)
British Pain Society
Chinese Association for the Study of Pain (CASP)
Croatian Pain Society
Dutch Pain Society
German Pain Society
Hong Kong Pain Society
Indian Society for Study of Pain
Iranian Pain Society
Irish Pain Society
Lebanese Society for the Study of Pain (LSSP)
Lithuanian Pain Society
Malaysian Association for the Study of Pain
New Zealand Pain Society
Pain Society of the Philippines
PainSA [South Africa]
Professional Health Association – Pain Section, Kosovo
Saudi Society of Pain Medicine
Serbian Pain Association of Pain Research and Treatment
Sociedad Española Del Dolor [Spain]
Society for the Study of Pain, Nigeria
Sri Lanka Association for the Study of Pain
Thai Association for the Study of Pain