



WFSA

WORLD FEDERATION OF SOCIETIES OF
ANAESTHESIOLOGISTS

WFSA unites anaesthesiologists around the world to improve patient care and access to safe anaesthesia

07th November 2016

To Whom It May Concern:

The World Federation of Societies of Anaesthesiologists (WFSA) strongly supports the inclusion of gabapentin for the management of neuropathic pain in the WHO Model List of Essential Medicines.

The WFSA notes that neuropathic pain is poorly recognised throughout the world and acknowledges that education in this area is needed for both diagnosis and treatment.

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. The WFSA believes it is important to include gabapentin as an additional agent to the WHO list because of its proven efficacy in managing neuropathic pain. 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 causing neuropathic pain.

Therefore, we urge the 21st Expert Committee on the Selection and Use of Essential Medicines to look favourably 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.

Yours sincerely,

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