



14 November 2016

To Whom It May Concern:

The World Medical Association (WMA) strongly supports 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.

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. The inclusion of Gabapentin in WHO Essential Medicines List is no replacement of opioids, both being necessary for the treatment of pain in general.

Therefore, the WMA respectfully recommends to 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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Secretary General