

April 26, 2021

STATEMENT on the inclusion of Bupropion on the Essential Medicines List (EML)

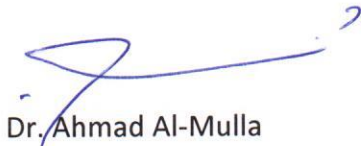
The Hamad Medical Corporation Tobacco Control Center, WHO Collaborating Center (HMC TCC- WHOCC) is grateful to the WHO for the opportunity to make a statement in support of the inclusion of Bupropion onto the Essential Medicines List (EML).

The HMC TCC- WHOCC is a WHO collaborating center in Doha, Qatar that aims at expanding its tobacco prevention and control services locally and regionally by providing training workshops for healthcare providers to ensure delivering the best quality of care and health care management by prescribing the appropriate smoking cessation treatment based on scientific evidence-based recommendations and in align with WHO FCTC Article 14 guidelines to help and support tobacco users to quit.

Tobacco use has been one of the leading causes of preventable death for many decades now that also impacts the lives of those exposed to it through second-hand smoke. It kills more than 8 million people each year. It contributes to 6 out of 8 of the world's leading causes of death such as respiratory ailments, lung and other forms of cancer and heart illnesses. Hence, tobacco cessation interventions should be prioritized to avert large number of untimely deaths within the next decades. Considering that all forms of tobacco are detrimental to health, professional assistance and medications have been found to exponentially increase the success rate of quitting based on scientific evidence.

Bupropion has been available and used for tobacco cessation purposes in many countries and for many years. It has proven efficacy for smoking cessation in several clinical trials; helping one in five tobacco users to quit with minimal side effects that are closely linked to the nicotine withdrawal syndrome. Bupropion has been shown to be a safe and cost-effective smoking cessation agent.

Bupropion may offer a valuable treatment option, if accessible, when rightly administered and would have a significant impact in helping smokers to quit by reducing the cravings and other withdrawal effects. With its proven efficacy, safety and cost effectiveness, we strongly endorse the inclusion of bupropion on the WHO Model List of Essential Medicines (EML) for the treatment of tobacco dependence as an aid to quit smoking.



Dr. Ahmad Al-Mulla

Director, HMC Tobacco Control Center, WHO Collaborating Center
Senior Consultant – Public Health & Disease Control