

**STATEMENT on Bupropion by the Tobacco Prevention and Control Research Center
(TPCRC), Tehran, Iran, 20 April 2021**

TPCRC is grateful to the WHO for the opportunity to make a statement in support of the inclusion of Bupropion onto the WHO Model List of Essential Medicines.

Smoking cessation clinics were first introduced in Iran in 1998. To date many types of medications have been prescribed in Iran. In these clinics, monthly cessation courses are held for women and men separately. These courses comprise of 4 sessions each about 2 hours individually or by group. In these courses the physicians use educational methods, consultation, cognitive-behavioral therapy (CBT) and pharmacotherapy such as Bupropion to help smokers quit smoking.

Bupropion has been available in Iran for many years and has been studied intensively for its effectiveness, safety, adverse effects and cost effectiveness. There is strong and consistent evidence that use of Bupropion increases the success rate in quitting smoking and is highly cost-effective.

Based on the evidence, smokers who use Bupropion have more chance to quit compare with others who do not use it. It is our belief that the complexity of the condition of tobacco addiction, and the variety of factors involved in helping smokers to quit, is significantly assisted by having Bupropion. The inclusion of Bupropion on the Model list can only be of help in this respect, encouraging those countries which, for whatever reason, do not have Bupropion as widely available as needed by smokers.

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