



# NATIONAL TUBERCULOSIS CONTROLLERS ASSOCIATION

## 2022-2023 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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April 6, 2023

To: Secretary of the Expert Committee on the Selection and Use of Essential Medicines  
Medicines Selection, IP, and Affordability (MIA)  
Department of Health Products Policy and Standards (HPS)  
World Health Organization  
By email via [emlsecretariat@who.int](mailto:emlsecretariat@who.int)

### **Re: Statement in support of including pretomanid in the World Health Organization Model List of Essential Medicines**

Dear Colleagues:

**The National TB Controllers Association (NTCA) strongly supports the proposal of the TB Alliance to include the antituberculosis medication, pretomanid 200mg tablets, in the World Health Organization (WHO) Model List of Essential Medicines (EML).** NTCA is an organization comprised of TB Programs from the US State, Big City, and US Territories and freely associated states, as well as individual members who may be clinicians, nurses, epidemiologists, laboratorians, pharmacologists, other TB program staff, community health providers, TB survivors and other community members and stakeholders. The mission of NTCA is to protect the public's health by advancing the elimination of tuberculosis through the concerted action of state, local, territorial, and freely associated TB programs. Although NTCA is focused largely on the United States, we also strongly advocate for US freely associated states including the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI), and the Republic of Palau (Palau). Each of these Pacific Island Nations have much higher rates of chronic diseases, infectious diseases such as TB, health risk factors, and premature death as compared to other U.S. population groups. Inequities and poor health in these regions are exacerbated by widely dispersed populations, limited resources, fragmented health systems as well as health threats resulting from climate change and natural disasters. NTCA is committed to facilitating equal access to high quality TB services, including the detection, management, and prevention of drug-susceptible and drug-resistant TB disease.

Based on high-quality clinical trials as well as global and U.S clinical experience to date, patients treated with a 6-month all-oral regimen of pretomanid given with bedaquiline and linezolid with or without moxifloxacin, "BPAL(M)", have high treatment success rates, fewer adverse events, and improved quality of life. This is far superior to the prior standard of care for drug resistant TB, which included 5 or more less effective and more toxic drugs given over 18 to 24 months. Although both the U.S. CDC and WHO currently recommend the use of BPAL(M) to treat people suffering from drug-resistant TB, access to these life-saving treatments is limited in U.S. territories and freely associated states. Access to pretomanid will also benefit the millions of immigrants, refugees, students, and visitors who would benefit from shorter, safe, and effective treatment using BPAL(M) prior to entering the U.S.

The addition of pretomanid to the WHO EML will improve global access to this highly effective treatment of drug-resistant TB, be cost-saving for resource-limited TB programs, decrease TB transmission in the community, improve health inequities, and save countless lives.

If you need additional information in support of this application, please do not hesitate to contact NTCA directly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Heidi Behm".

Heidi Behm, RN, MPH  
NTCA President

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Donna Hope Wegener".

Donna Hope Wegener, MA  
NTCA Executive Director