



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)

March 20, 2023

**Re: Letter of Strong Support for Inclusion of Pretomanid 200 mg Tablets on the World Health Organization Model List of Essential Medicines**

Dear Expert Committee,

On behalf of the Supporting, Mobilizing, and Accelerating Research for Tuberculosis Elimination (SMART4TB) Consortium, we are pleased to express our strong support for the Global Alliance for TB Drug Development's application for inclusion of pretomanid 200 mg tablets on the World Health Organization (WHO) Model List of Essential Medicines (EML).

According to WHO's Global TB Programme, drug-resistant TB cases are on the rise; an estimated [450,000 people worldwide fell ill with drug-resistant TB in 2021](#) alone. Effective, tolerable treatment is needed to cure people with TB, and stop onward transmission.

Pretomanid, [approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration](#), is a component of the game-changing 6-month regimen for treating drug-resistant TB recommended in the 2022 update to the WHO Global TB Programme's [consolidated guidelines](#). This regimen dramatically shortens treatment for TB from previous 9- to 18-month therapies, alleviating burdens on patients, providers, and programs alike. Results from the [TB-PRACTECAL trial](#) indicate that the regimen is not only shorter while preserving efficacy, but safer than the previous standard of care.

SMART4TB aims to transform TB prevention and care, using person-centered methods and tools. Pretomanid is a key element for achieving these goals. Including pretomanid on the EML will help make it accessible to all who need it, improving the lives of people with TB and all those who care for them. We look forward to your favorable review of this essential medicine. Please do not hesitate to contact Erica Lessem, [ellessem1@jh.edu](mailto:ellessem1@jh.edu), should you require any further information about our support for pretomanid.

Thank you in advance,

Richard Chaisson, MD, Chief of Party, SMART4TB  
Professor of Medicine, Epidemiology, and International Health  
Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and Bloomberg School of Public Health

*[signatories continued on next page]*



Payam Nahid, MD, MPH, Professor of Medicine, Director, UCSF Center for Tuberculosis, and  
Director, Clinical Trials Operations  
University of California San Francisco School of Medicine

Nilesh Bhatt, MD, MMED, PhD, Global Clinical Research Director  
Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation

Laurence Borand, PharmD, PhD, Director of Clinical Operations, SMART4TB Associate Professor  
of Medicine, Center for Tuberculosis Research, Division of Infectious Diseases Johns  
Hopkins University School of Medicine

Lindsay McKenna, MPH, TB Project Co-Director  
Treatment Action Group

Gidado Mustapha, PhD, MD, MSc, MPH, Executive Director  
KNCV Tuberculosis Foundation

Eric Nuermberger, MD, Professor of Medicine and International Health  
Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and Bloomberg School of Public Health

Patrick Phillips, PhD, Associate Professor of Medicine  
University of California San Francisco

Nicole Salazar-Austin, MD, ScM, Assistant Professor of Pediatrics  
Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine

Rada Savić, PhD, Professor of Medicine and Bioengineering  
University of California, San Francisco

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