

We Are TB

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Dear Expert Committee,

The tuberculosis survivors and affected family in We Are TB would like to express our support and excitement 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).

All of us in We Are TB have intimate experience with the challenges of tuberculosis care, and we share a strong desire for more options in the treatment of this deadly, horrible disease. For those of us battling drug resistant TB, the choices we have to save our lives and safeguard our communities become fewer and fewer if we are unlucky enough to have breathed in a strain of TB resistant to two or more drugs. The only available drug resistant TB treatments for many years required 18 months to two years of daily antibiotics with extremely toxic side effects including hearing loss and neuropathy. Completion of a regimen like that requires support and resources from both healthcare providers and community that frequently isn't there. Breadwinners are taken out of the workforce. Families are pushed into poverty. Children are orphaned. The ugly truth for many years is that for many people with highly drug resistant forms of TB, a diagnosis was a death sentence with ramifications beyond the person with TB.

Advocates in We Are TB have been pushing for shorter, better regimens for tuberculosis for years. Pretomanid and the BPaL/M regimens it is a part of (bedaquiline, pretomanid and linezolid, with or without moxifloxacin), is a triumph. Treatment for virtually all of the most dangerous and lethal strains of tuberculosis can now be completed in 6 months, and side effects are much more tolerable. The shortened duration of treatment means better more manageable care from healthcare systems and less stress on families. This medication is lifesaving and crucial, and we expect you to find the same during your assessment.

We thank you for this opportunity to share our thoughts on behalf of people suffering from tuberculosis worldwide.

With gratitude,

Kate O'Brien

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