



29th March 2022

The WHO Expert Committee on the Selection and Use of Essential Medicines
Department of Essential Medicines and Health Products
World Health Organization
20 Avenue Appia
CH-1211 Geneva 27
Switzerland

Letter of Support: Ravidasvir 200 mg inclusion into WHO's EML

Ministry of Health & Population Egypt strongly supports the inclusion of ravidasvir 200 mg in the WHO List of Essential Medicines (EML) - for treatment of chronic hepatitis C virus (HCV) infection.

According to WHO statistics, estimated 58 million people worldwide are living with chronic HCV infection and around 300 000 people die each year, due to liver cancer and cirrhosis caused by untreated HCV infections. Chronic HCV infection is a major public health problem in many low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). Egypt for example is having a HCV infection prevalence of 7% among adults was among the highest in the world and accounted for 7.6% of the country's mortality. Egypt, for example, had the highest rate of hepatitis C among its population in the world at 7%. Between 2014 and 2020, Egypt screened more than 50 million and treated more than 4 million residents for HCV. Access to affordable DAAs is one of the major factor contributed to Egypt's successful HCV elimination program.

Unfortunately, this may not be the case in many LMICs. Many countries are unable to scale up their treatment due to limited options of DAAs in their country and unaffordable drug price. We are proud that one of our local pharmaceutical company has been involved in finding an affordable treatment for the HCV affected countries. Ravidasvir is the first HCV treatment developed through a South-South Collaboration involving the Egyptian pharmaceutical company Pharco, Drugs for Neglected Diseases initiative (DNDi), the Malaysia Ministry of Health, Ministry of Public Health Thailand, and Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF). The ravidasvir/sofosbuvir combination has proven to be safe and effective in curing hepatitis C, and it is now registered not just in Malaysia & Thailand, but in Egypt.

We are confident with ravidasvir/sofosbuvir combination and felt it can be offered as an additional treatment option for HCV high-burden countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America. The inclusion of ravidasvir/sofosbuvir in the WHO EML will also serve as the basis for many national essential medicines list. Ministry of Health and Population Egypt strongly urges the Expert Committee on the Selection and Use of Essential Medicines to include ravidasvir 200 mg in the EML.

Thank you.

Dr, Mohamed Hassany
CEO of the National Committee for Control of Viral Hepatitis

