

**WHO Model List of Essential Medicine Expert Committee****EML Application Reference: A.45 Ticagrelor – prevention of atherothrombotic events****Geneva, 20 March 2023****Dear WHO Model List of Essential Medicine Expert Committee,**

I am writing on behalf of the World Heart Federation to support Astra Zeneca's submission of ticagrelor for prevention of atherothrombotic events in adult patients with acute coronary syndromes (ACS) or a history of myocardial infarction (MI) and a high risk of developing an atherothrombotic event in the 2023 World Health Organization's (WHO) Model List of Essential Medicines (EML).

The World Heart Federation is a leader and convener in global cardiovascular health and acts to reduce the global burden of heart disease and stroke. Our membership of more than 200 heart foundations, scientific societies, and patient organizations in more than 100 countries is an active hub, promoting heart health and driving change at the local, regional and global level.

Cardiovascular diseases are responsible for one third of deaths globally and the burden continues to rise. Member States need new strategies to achieve the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG), Target 3.4 (to reduce the risk of premature mortality from noncommunicable diseases by 1/3 by 2030). This goal will not be met without substantial reductions in the burden of premature cardiovascular disease, particularly ischemic heart disease and stroke. The current approach of using individual drugs to prevent and control disease on a global scale has failed and most countries are off track to reach the SDG 3.4.

The use of ticagrelor is recommended as a first-line option platelet antagonist together with aspirin after an acute coronary event in the European and US clinical guidelines. Clopidogrel, another platelet antagonist is included in the WHO EML and is recommended as an alternative if ticagrelor is unavailable. Robust clinical trials demonstrate the effectiveness and safety of ticagrelor and suggest superior efficacy of ticagrelor over Clopidogrel.

Thus, based on the burden of disease, urgent need, and recent data of new trials, the World Heart Federation supports this proposal to add ticagrelor for prevention of atherothrombotic events in adult patients with ACS or a history of MI and a high risk of developing an atherothrombotic event in the WHO EML.

Regards,



Dr Thomas Gaziano

Chair, World Heart Federation Science Committee