



Office of the Executive Vice President

Ralph W. Hale, MD, FACOG

Telephone 202/863-2525

Fax: 202/863-1643

February 4, 2009

via email

The Secretary of the 17th Expert Committee on the Selection and Use of Essential Medicines
Medicine Access and Rational Use (MAR)
Department of Essential Medicines and Pharmaceutical Policies (EMP)
World Health Organization
20 Avenue Appia
CH-1211 Geneva 27
Switzerland

Dear Committee Members:

The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) supports the application of Gynuity Health Projects and Venture Strategies for Health and Development for misoprostol to be added to WHO's Essential Drugs List, for the indication of treatment of incomplete abortion and miscarriage as well as postpartum hemorrhage.

Significant scientific evidence, including numerous randomized and comparative clinical trials and several clinical guidelines, supports our view that misoprostol should be included in the EDL for these indications. These data document repeatedly the safety and effectiveness of misoprostol for treatment of incomplete abortion and miscarriage and postpartum hemorrhage. ACOG was an endorser of the joint FIGO/ICM statement "Prevention and Treatment of Post-partum Haemorrhage: New Advances for Low Resource Settings" and has recently published the attached Committee Opinion, #427 Misoprostol for Postabortion Care, which outlines our positions.. We also note the misoprostol is already included in the 14th and 15th editions of *WHO Model List of Essential Medicines (22.1 Oxytocic)* because of its proven safety and efficacy for medical abortion and labor induction.

We understand that at present, some Ministries of Health are unable to provide misoprostol for incomplete abortion via standard drug registries because the product is not listed on the EDL for this particular important women's health indication. Listing misoprostol for incomplete abortion will break down one major barrier to use of this drug and facilitate access to safe and effective postabortion care in many settings throughout the world.

Thank you for considering the addition of this very important medication to the EDL for the indication of incomplete abortion and miscarriage and postpartum hemorrhage. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can be of any additional assistance.

Sincerely,

Ralph W. Hale, MD FACOG
Executive Vice President

Attachment: Misoprostol for Postabortion Care. ACOG Committee Opinion No.427. American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. *Obstet Gynecol* 2009;113:465-8.