

December 12, 2008

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is in support of Gynuity, Venture Strategies and POPPHI's urgent request to include misoprostol in the World Health Organization (WHO)'s Essential Medicines List for the prevention of postpartum hemorrhage. The signatories of this letter are principal investigators, senior foreign investigators and U.S. National Institute of Health officers representing the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD)-supported Global Research Network for Women and Children's Health.

Of note, the Belgaum India site, a member of the Global Network, has conducted the seminal randomized, placebo controlled trial which reported a 47% reduction in the rate PPH and an 80% reduction in severe PPH; the results of which were published and incorporated in the Cochrane Data Base. Indeed, WHO, in its consensus report summarizing its technical consultation related to prevention of PPH, concluded that the use of misoprostol for the purpose of PPH prevention should be encouraged in the absence of oxytocin availability. We support this conclusion and believe that misoprostol use solely for G.I. ulcer prevention, or for abortion, sends an inappropriate message to health ministries that are awaiting the vital EML designation for PPH prevention. In many cases, such indication will allow for appropriate availability of drug, particularly in areas where refrigeration is not available and in areas where availability of skilled birth attendants are limited. Recognizing that postpartum hemorrhage is the leading cause of maternal mortality worldwide, the importance of this proposed initiative by WHO is even more pressing.

Published studies employing 600 micrograms of oral misoprostol suggest a significant reduction in mean postpartum blood loss along with absence of significant, severe, side effects. Clearly the risk/benefit ratio favors supporting expanded use of this

important drug by the WHO, as a reflection of the Organization's commitment towards improving the health for all women.

We stand united in urgently requesting WHO's deliberation body to move with dispatch in granting misoprostol EML status.

Yours sincerely,

Global Network Investigators

Pierre Buekens, MD, PhD
Tulane School of Public Health and
Tropical Medicine
New Orleans, Louisiana

José Belizán, MD
University of Buenos Aires
School of Public Health, School of
Medicine
Buenos Aires, Argentina

Carl Bose, MD
University of North Carolina at Chapel
Hill
School of Medicine
Chapel Hill, North Carolina

Antoinette Tshetu, MD, PhD, MPH
Kinshasa School of Public Health
Democratic Republic of Congo

Waldemar Carlo, MD
University of Alabama at Birmingham
Department of Pediatrics
Birmingham, Alabama

Elwyn Chomba, MBChB, DCH, MRCP
University Teaching Hospital
Lusaka, Zambia

Michael Hambidge, MD
University of Colorado Health Sciences
Center
Denver, Colorado

Nancy Krebs, MD
University of Colorado Health Sciences
Center
Denver, Colorado

Manolo Mazariegos, MD
Center for Studies of Sensory
Impairment, Aging and Metabolism
Guatemala City, Guatemala

Ana Garcés, MD, MPH
IMSALUD/San Carlos University
Guatemala City, Guatemala

Richard J Derman, MD, MPH
Christiana Care
Newark, Delaware

Bhalchandra Kodkany, MD, MBBS
Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College
Belgaum, India

Global Network

for Women's and Children's Health Research

Robert L Goldenberg, MD
Drexel University Collage of Medicine
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Omrana Pasha, MD
The Aga Khan University
Karachi, Pakistan

Patricia Hibberd, MD, PhD
Tufts University School of Medicine
Boston, Massachusetts

Archana Patel, MD, DNB, MSCE
Indira Gandhi Government Medical
College
Nagpur, India

Ed Liechty, MD
Indiana University School of Medicine
Department of Pediatrics
Indianapolis, Indiana

Fabian Esamai, MBChB, MMed, PhD
Moi University School of Medicine
Eldoret, Kenya

Ty Hartwell, PhD
Elizabeth McClure, M.Ed.
Research Triangle Institute
Durham, NC

Linda L. Wright, MD
National Institute of Child Health and
Human Development
Bethesda, MD