

Based on a well-established efficacy of misoprostol for the prevention of PPH, we support the inclusion of misoprostol in the WHO List of Essential Medicines List (EML) to be specifically listed for its PPH indication in section 22.01.00.00 "Oxytocics." The use of misoprostol for PPH prevention is particularly important in places where traditional injectable uterotonics are not available and/or feasible. In addition, the *WHO Recommendations for the Prevention of Postpartum Haemorrhage* (WHO, 2007) recommends misoprostol for use as PPH prevention in the absence of active management of the third stage of labor. Furthermore, FIGO and ICM statement on the management of the third stage of labor to prevent postpartum hemorrhage, recommends the use of this drug when oxytocin is not available.

At present, some Ministries of Health find it difficult to include misoprostol for PPH prevention in their country's Essential Drugs List because the product is not listed on the WHO EML for this important women's health indication. Similarly, UN agencies and organizations active in emergency situations are frequently unable to offer this medication because of its absence from the WHO EML. Listing misoprostol for its PPH prevention indication will break down this barrier and facilitate easier access to misoprostol for PPH prevention, particularly in low-resource settings where it is most urgently needed.

Thank you for considering the addition of this very important medication to the WHO EML for the prevention of postpartum hemorrhage.

Sincerely,



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References

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