3rd Invitation
to Manufacturers of Influenza-specific Antiviral Medicines
to Submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) for Product Evaluation to the WHO Prequalification Unit

To support national and global efforts to increase access to influenza-specific antiviral medicines WHO invites manufacturers of selected pharmaceutical products to submit Expressions of Interest (EOIs) for product evaluation. It is anticipated, that the proposed action will help donors and partner organizations to procure sufficient quantities of approved antiviral medicines of assured quality for resource-limited countries, resulting in increased preparedness for influenza pandemics.

ARTICLE 1. PROCEDURE FOR THIS EOI

The current Invitation is published in accordance with the *Procedure for Prequalification of Pharmaceutical Products*, adopted in 2001 by the 37th WHO Expert Committee on Specifications for Pharmaceutical Preparations, and amended subsequently as part of the 45th report of the Committee, published as No. 961 of the WHO Technical Report Series in 2011.

Assessment of product(s) submitted under this Invitation for EOI includes evaluation of :

- product dossiers, which must include product data and information as specified in the Procedures and Fees section
- manufacturing sites, which must adhere to good manufacturing practices (GMP)
- clinical sites (if applicable), which must adhere to good clinical practices (GCP).

If evaluation demonstrates that a product and its corresponding manufacturing (and clinical) site(s) meet WHO recommended standards, it will be included in the list of medicinal products that are considered to be acceptable for procurement by UN organizations and others.

ARTICLE 2. MEDICINAL PRODUCTS INCLUDED IN THIS INVITATION

WHO and international public health experts believe that the world is closer to another influenza pandemic than at any time since 1968, when the last pandemics began. Given the potential impact that an influenza pandemic could have on any vulnerable population, antiviral stockpiling is critical to influenza pandemic response.

Based on WHO pharmacological and treatment guidelines, the WHO Department of Epidemic and Pandemic Alert and Response has identified neuraminidase inhibitor oseltamivir to be a priority product for this Invitation. Extension to other influenza-specific medications may be considered in the future as more evidence becomes available and as considered appropriate.

Interested manufacturers are encouraged to submit documentation for recommended dosage forms and strengths, as specified below, of medicinal products, containing:

oseltamivir:
- capsule 30 mg; 45 mg; 75 mg
- powder for oral suspension 12 mg/ml
- powder for oral suspension 6 mg/ml

zanamivir:
- 5mg/dose, inhalation powder, predispensed.

ARTICLE 3. HOW TO SUBMIT AN EOI

In order to submit an expression of interest for product evaluation, the manufacturer must send the required documentation, arranged according to the information provided in the Procedures & Fees section of the WHO prequalification website.

ARTICLE 4. QUALITY ASSESSMENT PROCEDURE FOLLOWING SUBMISSION OF AN EOI BY A MANUFACTURER

The quality assessment is undertaken to evaluate whether the pharmaceutical product being evaluated meets the requirements recommended by WHO, and is manufactured in compliance with good manufacturing practices (GMP).

The procedure established by WHO for quality assessment incorporates:

- general understanding of the production and quality control activities of the manufacturer;
- assessment of product data and information on safety, efficacy and quality submitted by the manufacturer, including product formulation, manufacture and test data and results;
- assessment of the manufacturing site's adherence to GMP, and its consistency in production and quality control of starting materials, with specific emphasis on active pharmaceutical ingredients, and finished product;
- assessment of clinical testing units or organizations (i.e. parties performing one or more clinical trials with the product) for compliance with good clinical practices and good laboratory practices, as appropriate;
- random sampling and testing of medicines supplied.

Previous evaluation conducted by the relevant national medicines regulatory authority (NMRA) may be taken into account during the evaluation conducted by WHO, provided that NMRA has expertise in the product area. If appropriate, the relevant NMRA may be invited to collaborate with WHO on the quality assessment. Any manufacturer who submits a product for evaluation, is therefore encouraged to authorize its NMRA to discuss relevant product files with WHO representatives, during assessments and inspections, if required (subject to appropriate confidentiality provisions, if necessary).

Once WHO is satisfied that quality assessment has been completed for the manufacturer of the relevant starting materials, the finished pharmaceutical product, and the clinical testing units, and that the product meets WHO recommended standards, the product (as produced at the specified manufacturing site) is added to the WHO List of Prequalified Medicinal Products.

ARTICLE 5. REFERENCES AND FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information about WHO medicines prequalification, please go to: https://extranet.who.int/pqweb/.

If you have any questions relating to the procedure for responding to an EOI, please send an email to: prequal@who.int. Your question(s) will be directed to the prequalification team member who can best advise you.

For further information on influenza A(H1N1), please visit the WHO website at: http://www.who.int/topics/influenza/en/. For current WHO advice on "Clinical management of human infection with influenza A(H1N1) virus", please consult: http://www.who.int/csr/resources/publications/swineflu/clinical_managementH1N1_21_May_2009.pdf