

1st Invitation to manufacturers of medicinal products for treatment of disorders caused by use of tobacco, 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 and the affordability of care and treatment of disorders due to use of tobacco, WHO invites manufacturers of selected pharmaceutical products to submit Expressions of Interest (EOI) for product evaluation.

1. Procedure for this Invitation to 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 will include evaluation of:

- product dossiers, which must include product data and information as specified in the guidelines for submission (see Procedures & Fees)
- 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 prequalified medicinal products that are considered to be acceptable for procurement by UN organizations and others.

2. Medicinal products included on the 1st Invitation

Tobacco is an important cause of many deadly and debilitating pathologies. This is the first EOI to be issued for 'treatment of disorders caused by use of tobacco, which contains the addictive substance nicotine.' Nicotine replacement therapy (NRT) works by supplying nicotine in an alternative form for a limited period. It reduces cravings and lessens withdrawal symptoms. Quality assured NRT in the forms of gum and transdermal patches has been licensed for the treatment of disorders related to tobacco use in persons 18 years of age or older. The primary use of NRT is for the complete quitting of tobacco use. This product and formulation are included in the WHO Model List of Essential Medicines (EML) 22nd list (2021).

Products included in the WHO Model List of Essential Medicines are selected on the basis of an assessment of the quality of evidence for benefits, harms, costs, and appropriateness for use in a variety of situations, taking into account needs of special populations, and the values and preferences of the groups (professional and patient) using them. NRT would be the first product for the 'disorders due to use of tobacco' category. In the near future, based on discussions with Member States, manufacturers and other key stakeholders, other medicinal products could be requested to be added to this category, most likely other medicines as identified in the WHO EMLs.

Interested manufacturers are encouraged to submit documentation for the medicinal product as specified below:

Single ingredient medicine to treat disorders due to use of tobacco

-Nicotine replacement therapy (Chewing gum: 2 mg; 4 mg as polacrilex. Transdermal patch: 5 mg to 25 mg/16 hours; 7 mg to 21 mg/24 hours.)

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 on the WHO Prequalification Unit – Medicines Assessment Team (PQT/MED) of website at <https://extranet.who.int/pqweb>.

Article 4. Quality assessment procedure following submission of an EOI by a manufacturer

The quality assessment is undertaken to assess 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 Drug Regulatory Authority (NDRA) may be taken into account during the evaluation conducted by WHO, provided that the NDRA has expertise in the product area. If appropriate, the relevant NDRA 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 NDRA 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 Medicines](#).

Article 5. References and further information

1. World Health Organization Model List of Essential Medicines – 22nd List, 2021. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2021 (WHO/MHP/HPS/EML/2021.02). Licence: CC BY-NC-SA3.0 IGO.
2. Karnieg T, Wang X. Cytisine for smoking cessation. CMAJ. 2018 May 14;190(19): E596. doi: 10.1503/cmaj.171371. PMID: 29759967; PMCID: PMC5953578.
3. The selection and use of essential medicines: report of the WHO Expert Committee, March 2009 (including the 16th WHO model list of essential medicines and the 2nd WHO model list of essential medicines for children). Geneva: World Health Organization; 2009.
4. Nilan K, McNeill A, Murray RL, McKeever TM, Raw M. A survey of tobacco dependence treatment guidelines content in 61 countries. Addiction. 2018 Aug;113(8):1499-1506.

For further information on the WHO Prequalification Unit (PQT), please visit PQT's website at: <https://extranet.who.int/pgweb> Should you have any questions relating to the procedure for responding to an EOI, please write to the WHO Prequalification Unit at: prequal@who.int. Your question(s) will be directed to the prequalification team member who can best advise you.