

4th Invitation to manufacturers of influenza-specific antiviral medicines to submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) for product evaluation to the WHO Prequalification Unit - Medicines Team (August 2024)

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 INVITATION TO EOI

The current Invitation for EOI is published in accordance with the *Procedure for assessing the acceptability, in principle, of pharmaceutical products for purchase by United Nations agencies*, adopted in 2001 by the 37th WHO Expert Committee on Specifications for Pharmaceutical Preparations, published as part of the 37th report of the Committee (no. 908 of the WHO Technical Report Series) in 2003, 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 [guidelines for submission](#)
- 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

This EOI includes products for the management of both severe and non-severe influenza; it also includes antiviral medications to prevent influenza virus infection. Baloxavir marboxil, a polymerase acidic (PA) endonuclease inhibitor, appears for the first time in this EOI. It is used as a single dose. Also, having an alternative mechanism of action, it theoretically may be effective for viruses resistant to other medicines.

The WHO Clinical Practice Guidelines for Influenza 2024 form the basis for inclusion of products herein. (See Article 5 below, References and further information.)

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

baloxavir marboxil

- tablets 40 mg (preferably scored); 80 mg
- granules for oral suspension, 2 mg/ml

ARTICLE 3. HOW TO SUBMIT AN EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

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 of Medicines Programme web site at www.who.int/prequal section "Information for Applicants".

ARTICLE 4. QUALITY ASSESSMENT PROCEDURE FOLLOWING SUBMISSION OF AN EXPRESSION OF INTEREST 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 Drug Regulatory Authority (NDRA) may be taken into account during the evaluation conducted by WHO, provided that 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

Detailed information on influenza management and the evidence base for therapeutics is available in the WHO Clinical Practice Guidelines for Influenza 2024.

Link to guideline available soon

For further information on WHO Prequalification Unit – Medicines Team (PQT/MED), please visit the website: www.who.int/prequal. If you have any questions relating to the procedure for responding to an EOI, please write to the WHO Prequalification Team – Medicines at its email address: prequal@who.int. Your question(s) will be directed to the prequalification team member who can best advise you.