

An open letter from the International MAOI Expert Group to all government agencies and other organisations with responsibility for the availability and importation of drugs for medical treatment

The purpose of this notice is to highlight the necessity for maintaining an adequate supply and availability of **monoamine oxidase inhibitors (MAOIs)** antidepressant drugs. These are a powerful class of antidepressants which are essential in specialist psychopharmacology practice, and are sometimes the only effective, and life-saving, treatment for a significant proportion of sufferers from severe depressive illness.

Unscheduled cessation of these medications may lead to severe relapse, suffering, and suicide.

The International MAOI Expert Group therefore earnestly requests that you attend to issues of supply and availability and that you expedite action to facilitate the prompt availability of these drugs in your jurisdiction.

The relevant MAOIs are tranylcypromine, phenelzine, isocarboxazid, and selegiline. **In some countries there is not one from this class of these drugs available**, and in others only selected ones are available, and in short or intermittent supply.

The situation has now reached crisis point.

This international MAOI expert group is comprised of 150 eminent and experienced international researchers and clinicians whose purpose is to endeavour to ensure that an appropriate level of knowledge and teaching is maintained in the medical profession and that these important drugs remain available for the treatment of patients. To this end the MAOI group has already published a position statement in a leading journal [1] which contains appropriate discussion and rationale for the adopted position.

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[The list of international experts who have endorsed this is available upon application]

References

1. Gillman, P.K., S. Feinberg, and L. Fochtmann, *Revitalizing monoamine oxidase inhibitors: A call for action*. CNS spectrums, 2019: p. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1017/S1092852919001196>.