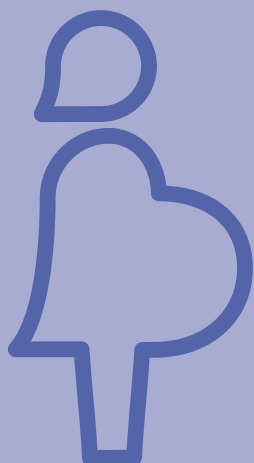


# WHO recommendations on **antiplatelet agents for the prevention of pre-eclampsia**



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ISBN 978-92-4-003754-0 (electronic version)

ISBN 978-92-4-003755-7 (print version)

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## Acknowledgements

The World Health Organization (WHO) Department of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Research, and the Department of Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health, and Ageing gratefully acknowledge the contribution of many individuals and organizations to the updating of these recommendations. The work on this update was coordinated by Doris Chou, Olufemi Oladapo and Joshua Vogel of the Department of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Research and Maurice Bucagu of the Department of Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health, and Ageing.

WHO extends its sincere thanks to Edgardo Abalos, Sabina Ariff, Jemima Dennis-Antiwi, Christine East, Shireen Meher, James Neilson, Hiromi Obara, Rachel Plachciniski, Zahida Quereshi, and Kathleen Rasmussen who served as members of the Guideline Development Group (GDG), and to Zahida Quereshi (Chair) James Neilson (co-Chair) for leading the meeting. WHO also thanks the members of the External Review Group (ERG). WHO also gratefully acknowledges the contribution of the members of the Executive Guideline Steering Group (GSG).

Anna Cuthbert, Leanne Jones, Frances Kellie, and Myfanwy Williams reviewed the scientific evidence, prepared the Grading of Recommendations Assessment, Development and Evaluation (GRADE) tables and drafted the narrative summary of the evidence. Doris Chou, Olufemi Oladapo and Joshua Vogel revised the narrative summaries and double-checked the corresponding GRADE tables and prepared the Evidence to Decision (EtD) frameworks. The ERG peer reviewed the final document prior to its receiving executive clearance by WHO and its publication.

WHO acknowledges the various organizations that were represented by observers, including Deborah Armbruster (United States Agency for International Development [USAID]), Emma Clark (USAID), Kathleen Hill (JHPIEGO), Ingela Wiklund (International Confederation of Midwives [ICM]), Bo Jacobsson and Gerry Vissler (International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics [FIGO]), Jeffrey Smith (Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation) and Charlotte Warren (Population Council).

WHO also appreciates the contributions of staff at the WHO regional offices, including Bremen de Mucio (PAHO), Karima Gholbzouri (EMRO), Chandani Anoma Jayathilaka (SEARO), Oleg Kuzmenko (EURO), Leopold Ouedraogo (AFRO), Howard Sobel (WPRO) and Claudio Sosa (PAHO).

WHO acknowledges the financial support for this work received from USAID and the UNDP/UNFPA/UNICEF/WHO/World Bank Special Programme of Research, Development and Research Training in Human Reproduction (HRP), Department of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Research. WHO would like to emphasize that donors do not participate in any decision related to the guideline development process, including the composition of research questions, membership of the guideline development groups, conducting and interpretation of systematic reviews, or formulation of the recommendations. The views of the funding bodies have not influenced the content of these recommendations.

## Abbreviations

CerQUAL	Confidence in the Evidence from Reviews of Qualitative Research
DOI	declaration of interest
ERG	Evidence Review Group
ESG	Evidence Synthesis Group
EtD	Evidence to Decision
FIGO	International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics
GDG	Guideline Development Group
GRADE	Grading of Recommendations Assessment, Development and Evaluation
GSG	Guideline Steering Group
HELLP	hemolysis, elevated liver enzymes, low platelets
HRP	UNDP/UNFPA/UNICEF/WHO/World Bank Special Programme of Research, Development and Research Training in Human Reproduction
ICM	International Confederation of Midwives
ICU	intensive care unit
IU	international units
MPH	maternal and perinatal health
NICU	neonatal intensive care unit
NNT	number needed to treat
NNH	number needed to harm
PICO	population (P), intervention (I), comparator (C), outcome (O)
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WHO	World Health Organization



## Executive summary

### Introduction

In 2019, the Executive Guideline Steering Group (GSG) for the World Health Organization (WHO) maternal and perinatal health recommendations prioritized updating the then current WHO recommendations on antiplatelet agents for the prevention of pre-eclampsia. This decision was based on new evidence on the subject that had become available. The recommendation in this document thus supersedes the previous WHO recommendations on antiplatelet agents for the prevention of pre-eclampsia as published in the 2011 guidelines, *WHO recommendations for the prevention and treatment of pre-eclampsia and eclampsia*.

### Target audience

The primary audience for these recommendations includes health professionals who are responsible for developing national and local health-care guidelines and protocols and those involved in the provision of care to women and their newborns during pregnancy, labour and childbirth, including midwives, nurses, general medical practitioners and obstetricians. The primary audience also includes managers of maternal and child health programmes, and relevant staff in ministries of health and educational and training institutions, in all settings.

### Guideline development methods

Updating these recommendations was guided by

The scientific evidence supporting the recommendations was synthesized using the Grading of Recommendations, Assessment, Development and Evaluation (GRADE) approach. An updated systematic review was used to prepare the evidence profiles for the prioritized question. WHO convened a meeting on 23–24 November 2020 at which the Guideline Development Group (GDG) members reviewed, deliberated and achieved consensus on the strength and direction of the recommendations presented herein. Through a structured process, the GDG reviewed the balance between the desirable and undesirable effects and the overall certainty of the supporting evidence, values and preferences of stakeholders, resource requirements and cost-effectiveness, acceptability, feasibility and equity.

### Recommendations

Following the review, the GDG approved the recommendations. To ensure that the recommendations are correctly understood and applied in practice, guideline users may want to refer to the remarks, as well as to the evidence summary, including the considerations on implementation that follow each recommendation.

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