

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

Information Note: 22/2019

Subject: Revision of the standard disclaimer for WHO publications

Distribution: All WHO staff at headquarters

Date: 12 July 2019

1. Purpose

The purpose of this Information Note is to inform staff of amendments to the [standard disclaimer](#) for WHO publications (unrestricted materials).

The objectives of the amendments are:

- to clarify the status of web annexes to WHO guidelines, which form an integral part of the guideline, but whose presentation may differ from the main guideline;
- to clarify the position of the Organization with respect to recommendations on the use of medicinal products for an indication, in a dosage form, dose regimen, population or other use parameters that are not included in the approved labelling.

2. Amendments

In relevant cases, the following disclaimers should be added to the standard disclaimer for WHO publications.

For web annexes to WHO guidelines

This publication forms part of the WHO guideline entitled [*Title*]. It is being made publicly available for transparency purposes and information, in accordance with the *WHO handbook for guideline development*, 2nd edition (2014).

For publications including recommendations for the off-label use of medicines and/or vaccines

The recommendations contained in this publication are based on the advice of independent experts, who have considered the best available evidence, a risk–benefit analysis and other factors, as appropriate. This publication may include recommendations on the use of medicinal products for an indication, in a dosage form, dose regimen, population or other use parameters that are not included in the approved labelling. Relevant stakeholders should familiarize themselves with applicable national legal and ethical requirements. WHO does not accept any liability for the procurement, distribution and/or administration of any product for any use.

3. Entry into force

The standard disclaimer (in all official languages) has been updated to reflect the above changes. The changes are applicable with immediate effect. All staff who are involved in the development of WHO guidelines and publications that include recommendations for off-label use of medicines and/or vaccines should, as and where relevant, ensure that they include the above-mentioned additional disclaimers.

4. Further information

For further information on the above-mentioned amendments and other publishing matters, staff are invited to contact WHO Press (publishing@who.int). Additional guidance materials are being developed for staff involved in the development and production of WHO publications, including templates for WHO guidelines. These guidance materials will be made available on the WHO Press intranet site at the following URL: <https://intranet.who.int/homes/whp/publishingwho/>.