Primaquine potentially has a major role in reducing malaria transmission, especially in efforts to eliminate *Plasmodium falciparum* malaria. The population benefits of reducing malaria transmission by gametocytocidal drugs require that a very high proportion of patients receive these medicines. WHO currently recommends the addition of a single dose of primaquine (0.75 mg base/kg) to artemisinin combination treatments (ACTs) for uncomplicated falciparum malaria as a gametocytocidal medicine, particularly as a component of pre-elimination or elimination programmes, “provided the risks of haemolysis in glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase (G6PD) deficient patients are considered”. However, G6PD testing currently is seldom available in the field, limiting the implementation of this recommendation. In areas threatened by *P. falciparum* resistance to artemisinins, all efforts should be made to contain its spread, and reducing transmission of parasites from treated individuals is imperative.

In light of these concerns, WHO has conducted a review of the evidence on the safety and effectiveness of primaquine as gametocytocide of *P. falciparum*, which indicates that a single 0.25mg base/kg is effective in blocking transmission and is unlikely to cause serious toxicity in subjects with any of the G6PD variants. Based on this review\(^1\), the Malaria Policy Advisory Committee (MPAC) recommends the following:

In: (1) areas threatened by artemisinin resistance where single dose primaquine as a gametocytocide for *P. falciparum* malaria is not being implemented, and (2) elimination areas which have not yet adopted primaquine as a gametocytocide for *P. falciparum* malaria:

A **single 0.25 mg base/kg primaquine dose** should be given to all patients with parasitologically-confirmed *P. falciparum* malaria on the first day of treatment in addition to an ACT, except for pregnant women and infants <1 year of age.

It is recognised that this recommendation may raise the issue of whether countries already using a single dose of 0.75 mg base/kg primaquine in the treatment of *P. falciparum* malaria should consider changing to the lower dose. WHO recommends that such countries continue with the current policy until more information on the efficacy of the lower dose is available, at which time WHO will review this recommendation.

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\(^1\) Report available on the WHO-GMP website at the following URL: