

We Care Sierra Leone, Global Advocate with T1 International

26/ 03/ 2025

Subject: Comment on the Application for Inclusion of Rapid-Acting Insulin in the Essential Medicines List

Dear Members of the EML Expert Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for the inclusion of rapid-acting insulin in the World Health Organization's Essential Medicines List. As a healthcare advocate and someone who has witnessed the devastating impact of inadequate access to essential medicines, I believe that this inclusion is critical for improving health outcomes for millions of people living with diabetes, especially in low-income countries.

Growing up in Sierra Leone, I have seen first-hand how the lack of access to essential medicines can devastate families. My aunt passed away from type 2 diabetes, and my father has lived with the condition for over 15 years. The health system in Sierra Leone is ill-equipped to support individuals with chronic conditions, leaving too many without the necessary care.

Insulin is vital not only for individuals with type 1 diabetes but also for the millions living with type 2 diabetes. In Sierra Leone and many other countries, rapid-acting insulin remains out of reach for those who need it most. By adding rapid-acting insulin to the Essential Medicines List, the WHO can take a significant step toward ensuring its affordability and accessibility worldwide.

The inclusion of rapid-acting insulin would:

1. Promote global health equity by ensuring access to insulin in low-income countries.
2. Prevent life-threatening diabetes complications by providing timely treatment options.
3. Support local organizations delivering life-saving care to those in need.
4. Increase education and awareness about diabetes management.

Access to insulin should not be a privilege; it is a fundamental human right. We must work together to ensure that no one loses their life because they could not afford or find the medication they need.

Thank you for considering this important issue. I look forward to your positive response regarding the inclusion of rapid-acting insulin in the Essential Medicines List.

Sincerely,
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