

To the WHO Expert Committee on the Selection and Use of Essential Medicines,

I am a child and adolescent psychiatrist and a member of the Taiwanese Society of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry. Additionally, I have participated in conferences organized by the International Association for Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and Allied Professions (IACAPAP).

I write to express my strong support for the inclusion of methylphenidate in the WHO Essential Medicines List, as proposed in [Application Reference Number: "A.19 Methylphenidate – Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder"]. Attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) is a well-documented neurodevelopmental condition that affects millions of children worldwide, yet access to effective pharmacological treatment remains limited, particularly in low- and middle-income countries.

Early intervention with appropriate medication, including methylphenidate, plays a critical role in allowing children with ADHD to develop in accordance with their neurobiological potential. Delayed or restricted access to treatment may hinder their cognitive, emotional, and social development, further exacerbating disparities in education and overall well-being. Ensuring the availability of methylphenidate as an essential medicine aligns with the fundamental principle of upholding children's rights to adequate healthcare.

I respectfully urge the committee to consider the significant impact of this decision on children's health and well-being and to support the inclusion of methylphenidate in the WHO Essential Medicines List.

Sincerely,

Chen, Lichi

Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist

Director, Division of Child, Adolescent, and Women's Mental Health, Department of Psychiatry, Cheng Hsin General Hospital, Taiwan (R.O.C)

<https://reurl.cc/O59VzX>