

EML Secretariat

17 April 2025

Letter of Support

Ref. A.19 Methylphenidate – attention deficit hyperactivity disorder

To whom it may concern,

A group of expert child and adolescent psychiatry professionals, led by Professors Brooke Molina and Philip Shaw, has prepared a proposal for the inclusion of methylphenidate in the WHO Model List of Essential Medicines for the treatment of children and adolescents aged 6-17 years with attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder.

Attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) is a common neurodevelopmental disorder that impairs the functioning of millions of children and adolescents worldwide. Medication is often an important part of the overall treatment. It should be an option to include in a treatment plan if a careful diagnostic assessment has been conducted, ADHD symptoms are causing significant impairment despite the implementation of individually tailored psychosocial interventions and support, and the child and the caregivers have been informed about treatment options. The prescription should be made by a physician with appropriate expertise in treating ADHD.

There is comprehensive evidence for the benefits and safety of methylphenidate in the treatment of ADHD, as reviewed in the proposal.

The Finnish Society for Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (LPSY) supports the proposal to add methylphenidate in the WHO Model List of Essential Medicines for Children.

Yours sincerely,



Signed on behalf of the LPSY Board

Ilona Luoma, MD, PhD, Professor
Chair of the Finnish Society for Child and Adolescent Psychiatry