

17.04.2025

Letter of support

Ref: "A.19 Methylphenidate – attention deficit hyperactivity disorder".

This is to confirm our support to IACAPAP, regarding the application of methylphenidate in the [WHO Essential Medicines List](#) .

We are the Child and Adolescent psychiatry subcommittee of the Sri Lanka College of psychiatrist. In Sri Lanka many children and adolescents present to clinical setting with clinical features of ADHD. Overall prevalence of ADHD is 6.5% (95% CI [5.1, 8.1]) with combined as the commonest subtype [1]. Majority of these children are managed with Methylphenidate, with good clinical response and functional outcome. However time to time we face a shortage of Methylphenidate in the country due to the Ministry of health not giving priority to this drug, as it is not in the Essential drug list. This has resulted in negative impact on children such as poor school performance, school drop outs and victimization of bullying at school. Considering these facts we strongly believe that Methylphenidate should be in the WHO Essential Medicine list to ensure the continuous clinical care for children with ADHD.

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References –

1. Nazeer N, Rahanachandra R. Prevalence of ADHD in Primary School Children, in Colombo District, Sri Lanka. Journal of Attention Disorders, June 2022.26(8):1130-1138, DOI:10.1177/10870547211058704