



Société Tunisienne de Psychiatrie de l'Enfant et l'Adolescent
Tunisian Association for Child and Adolescent Psychiatry

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**To the Expert Committee on the Selection and Use of Essential Medicines
World Health Organization
1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland**

**Subject: Letter of support for the inclusion of methylphenidate on the WHO
Model List of Essential Medicines**

Dear Members of the Committee,

As an association of child and adolescent psychiatrists working in the field of mental health in Tunisia, we would like to express our **strong support** for the inclusion of **methylphenidate** on the **World Health Organization's Model List of Essential Medicines**.

In Tunisia, **attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD)** remains a condition that is still widely **underdiagnosed and insufficiently managed**, despite its **significant impact** on the lives of children, adolescents, and their families. Although precise national epidemiological data are lacking, **regional prevalence studies** suggest that the frequency of ADHD is comparable to that observed internationally.

Furthermore, **specialized child and adolescent psychiatric services** remain scarce, particularly outside major cities. Access to **methylphenidate**, a first-line treatment recommended by many leading international medical societies, is especially **limited**: its availability is confined to a few hospital settings, and it is **not included in the national list of reimbursed medicines**. As a result, many children are deprived of a treatment to which they are rightfully entitled.

The inclusion of methylphenidate on the WHO Model List of Essential Medicines would send a **strong signal** to Tunisian health authorities, encouraging them to **recognize the importance of this treatment** and to **facilitate its availability** in a secure and regulated manner.

Such international recognition would also contribute to **reducing the stigma** associated with ADHD, **promoting evidence-based care**, and **integrating this treatment into national mental health policies**, which are currently being strengthened.

We thank you for your attention to this important matter and remain at your disposal for any additional information you may require.

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