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Wednesday 2 April 2025

The Secretary  
WHO Expert Committee on Selection and Use of Essential Medicines  
Essential Medicines Team  
Department of Health Products Policy and Standards  
World Health Organization, Geneva

Dear WHO Expert Committee Members

**A.25 Sunscreen, broad-spectrum – prevention of skin cancer in people with albinism**

I write in support of the application to add SPF50+ broad-spectrum sunscreen for persons with albinism to the WHO Model List of Essential Medicines and Model List of Essential Medicines for Children, submitted by Muluka-Anne Miti-Drummond, the UN Independent Expert on the Enjoyment of Rights by Persons with Albinism.

Albinism is a genetic condition that results in melanin deficiency, leaving persons with albinism highly vulnerable to ultraviolet radiation, which significantly increases their risk of skin cancer. The risk is compounded by limited access to protective measures and health care provision in low-resource settings. The increased risks arising from climate change make this a pressing issue.

Exposure of persons with albinism to the sun without sun protection is a cause of premature death from skin cancer. Studies show that persons with albinism predominantly develop skin cancers by the time they are 20 years of age, and do not commonly live beyond the age of 30 years (Lekalakala et al. 2015; Moreno-Artero et al. 2021). SPF50+ sunscreen is the only effective preventive measure against harmful UV exposure for uncovered skin areas (Sander et al. 2020).

My research collaboration with albinism organizations across sub-Saharan Africa over the last 20 years has emphasised the importance of sun protection measures for people with albinism as a first line of defence against skin cancer. But, however aware persons with albinism are of the harmful effects of the sun's rays, they are unable to protect themselves due to the cost of sunscreen, especially in low-resource settings. Adding sunscreen to the WHO Model List of Essential Medicines will contribute to ensuring free or reduced cost sunscreen to persons with albinism and save lives.

Yours sincerely

Professor Charlotte Baker