

**To:** the 25th WHO Expert Committee on Selection and Use of Essential Medicines | [emlsecretariat@who.int](mailto:emlsecretariat@who.int)

**Date:** April 11th, 2025

**Subject:** Letter of Support for Application A-30: Urea- and Glycerol-based Topical Moisturizers – Atopic Dermatitis

Dear members of the Expert Committee,

On behalf of the Dutch Society for Dermatology and Venereology (NVDV), we express our strong support for the inclusion of urea- and glycerol-based topical moisturizers (specifically urea 5% and glycerol 15–20% creams) on the WHO Model List of Essential Medicines (EML and EMLc) for the treatment of atopic dermatitis.

As a professional society representing dermatologists in the Netherlands, we recognize the profound impact that untreated atopic dermatitis (AD) has on the lives of millions of patients, especially in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). The inclusion of basic, evidence-based moisturizers as essential medicines would address a critical gap in equitable dermatological care.

Atopic dermatitis is a chronic inflammatory skin disease with substantial psychosocial and physical burdens, particularly in children. First-line treatment involves anti-inflammatory medication alongside consistent emollient use. However, in many resource-constrained settings, access to quality moisturizers remains limited due to cost, availability, and misclassification as cosmetic products.

We commend the extensive work of the International Society of Atopic Dermatitis (ISAD) and collaborators, including prof. dr. Peter Schmid-Grendelmeier, for the scientific rigor and public health focus of the application. The proposed emollients are supported by clinical evidence, are affordable, and can be locally compounded where needed.

The NVDV fully supports this initiative, which we consider to be a critical step toward achieving equitable skin health globally. We urge the WHO Expert Committee to approve the inclusion of these urea- and glycerol-based moisturizers in the EML and EMLc.

Sincerely,



Prof. dr. DirkJan Hijnen  
Chairman of the Dutch Society for Dermatology and Venereology (NVDV)