

**WHO 25th Expert Committee on Selection and Use of
Essential Medicines**

Dept. of Health Products Policy & Standards
20 Avenue Appia
CH-1211 Geneva 27

Email: emlsecretariat@who.int

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Support for including 5% urea and 15–20% glycerol creams to WHO EML Proposal A 30

Dear members of the WHO Expert Committee on Selection and Use of Essential Medicines,

The Swiss Society for Allergology and Clinical Immunology (SSAI) strongly supports the inclusion of low-cost emollients, specifically 5% urea and 15–20% glycerol creams, on the WHO Essential Medicines List (EML).


These moisturizers are critical for managing atopic dermatitis (AD), particularly in low-resource settings where access to basic dermatological care is severely limited. As healthcare professionals, we witness firsthand the burden of atopic dermatitis (AD) on patients, particularly in underserved communities.

Dermatologists active in the WHO-AFRO region, some of them members of our society, report significant challenges in accessing affordable moisturizers for AD treatment. Without proper emollient therapy, patients—especially children—face unnecessary suffering, sleep disturbances, and increased risk of secondary infections such as impetigo and cellulitis. Including these emollients on the EML will directly improve patient outcomes and reduce preventable complications.


Ensuring equitable access to affordable dermatological care is a public health priority. The inclusion of 5% urea and 15–20% glycerol creams in the WHO Essential Medicines List (EML) will provide a cost-effective solution for managing atopic dermatitis (AD), a condition affecting millions worldwide.

In low-resource settings, untreated AD leads to preventable complications, including severe infections and hospitalizations. This application is based on strong clinical evidence, cost-effectiveness, and urgent needs expressed by dermatologists in the WHO-AFRO region. We urge the WHO to take this essential step toward improving global dermatological health.

Sincerely



SSAI President
Prof. Camillo Ribi, MD



SSAI Managing Director
Jolanda Trachsel