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Dear Members of the Expert Committee,

We, the undersigned, write in support of the addition of the medication baclofen to the World Health Organization's (WHO) Model Essential Medicines List (EML) and Model Essential Medicines List for Children (EMLc). Collectively, we have witnessed the profound impact that baclofen can have on the lives of individuals living with spasticity due to neuromuscular disorders, stroke, spinal cord injuries, traumatic brain injuries, and cerebral palsy. This medication can improve quality of life and functional outcomes for patients with these conditions. **That also includes adults!**

Spasticity is a common and debilitating symptom characterized by muscle stiffness, pain, and impaired movement, making basic activities of daily living challenging. Baclofen reduces spasticity, helping individuals move more easily, and experience less pain. These benefits not only improve quality of life, improve sleep, but also enhance the efficacy of rehabilitation therapies, contributing to long-term improvements in patient outcomes.

By adding baclofen to the EML and EMLc, WHO can ensure greater accessibility to a cost-effective, essential therapy that significantly improves function and independence for those living with spasticity and related disorders. Furthermore, the addition of baclofen to the EML and EMLc aligns with WHO's mission of achieving universal health coverage, reducing health inequities, and improving the health and well-being of vulnerable populations.

We strongly support the addition of baclofen to the EML and EMLc. This is a meaningful step in reducing health disparities and improving access to this life-changing medication.

Please reach out for further information or if you would like to connect directly with experts in the area of cerebral palsy treatment, or with people with lived experience of cerebral palsy to speak to the effectiveness and benefits of baclofen.

Sincerely,

Marieke van Driel

Chair CP Nederland
Dutch Patient Organization for people with Cerebral Palsy