

Childhood Cancer International

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Dear WHO Expert Committee,

We write to you on behalf of Childhood Cancer International, a non-governmental association, with 208 members in 98 countries – many of these in low and middle income countries (LMICs). CCI is a Non-State Actor in formal relationship with WHO. As an organisation and a movement dedicated to improving childhood cancer care everywhere – and especially in LMICs - we are writing to express our strong support for the inclusion of **blinatumomab** on the WHO Model List of Essential Medicines for Children.

In many LMICs the survival rate is low – some as low as 20% - and one of the main reasons for this is that in some places essential treatment drugs are not always available. B-cell acute lymphoblastic leukaemia (B-ALL) is the most common cancer in children. B-ALL is also one of the GICC six index cancers. In low income settings the burden of B-ALL treatment for children is considerable both in terms of toxicity from the currently used drugs as well as a higher rate of relapse of their disease. In addition, some drugs essential to treatment are not always readily available.

Blinatumomab has proven efficacy in treating children with relapsed or refractory B-ALL and has the potential to reduce treatment-related toxicity compared to traditional chemotherapy. However, this life-saving treatment remains out of reach for many due to cost and availability. The inclusion of blinatumomab on the WHO Model List of Essential Medicines for Children would be a critical step toward expanding equitable access to this life-saving therapy in low- and middle-income countries.

We at CCI strongly support this application and urge the Committee to approve blinatumomab for inclusion.

Warm regards, on behalf of CCI globally,

Rodney Wong, CCI President



Carl Queiros, Global Executive Director

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