

Letters of support for submissions to the WHO Essential Medicines List

CanKids...Kidscan – A national organization working to improve care for children with cancer in India.

Dear WHO Expert Committee Members,

Greetings from CanKids KidsCan

I am writing this letter on behalf of CanKids KidsCan in support of inclusion of blinatumomab in the WHO Essential Medicines List.

As a Chairman of Cankids Kidscan, I have seen firsthand the impact of B-cell acute lymphoblastic leukemia in children — particularly in settings where access to innovative therapies is limited.

The World Health Organization (WHO) Global Initiative for Childhood Cancer aims to improve outcomes for children with cancer worldwide. In alignment with this initiative, CanKids has launched the OCAT disease-specific project, which addresses the World Health Organization's six index childhood cancers: acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL), Burkitt lymphoma (BL), Hodgkin lymphoma (HL), retinoblastoma (RB), Wilms tumor (nephroblastoma), and low-grade glioma (LGG).

CanKids has been actively supporting children diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia (ALL) since 2004. Through our targeted OCAT ALL Project, formally launched in 2017, we have significantly improved outcomes and access to holistic care for children across India.

As of March 18, 2024, our OCAT and Golden Crab ALL Project have achieved the following:

- Over 26,694 new ALL cases registered since 2017, with 27,448 children supported across 28 states and 7 Union Territories.
- 18,024 children received medical support, with total spending on ALL-related treatment amounting to INR 36.5 crores.
- 112 treatment centers across the country have collaborated in improving access and reducing treatment refusal, abandonment, and interruptions.
- 7,852 families have received comprehensive psychosocial and financial support.

- Supported risk-stratified protocols through better and advanced diagnostics, including MRD tests., have enabled better risk stratification and relapse prevention.
- Reduced treatment-related toxicity through nutrition plans, supplements, and blood support, including donors and single donor platelet kits.
- We have facilitated 36 bone marrow transplants, including 13 for relapsed/refractory ALL patients.
- Survivorship is being actively promoted through our Passport 2Life clinics, reintegration support, and educational scholarships.

Blinatumomab offers a highly effective, targeted option for these patients and has transformed outcomes in high-income countries.

Inclusion of blinatumomab in the WHO Model List of Essential Medicines for Children is a critical step toward expanding equitable access to this life-saving therapy in low- and middle-income countries. It would also support integration into national treatment protocols and facilitate procurement mechanisms aligned with WHO's Global Initiative for Childhood Cancer and addition to the Global Platform for Access to Childhood Cancer Medicines.

On behalf of my organization, I strongly support this application and urge the Committee to approve blinatumomab for inclusion.

Sincerely,

Ms. Poonam Bagai,



Founder Chairman CanKids KidsCan, New Delhi

**Vice Chairman Pallium India Member,
Central Council Member IAPC,
ICMR, CECHR Member,
Governing Council & Operations Lead ICCI.
CCI WHO SEAR Representative**