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To

World Health Organization (WHO)
Essential Medicines List Committee

Subject: Endorsement for the Inclusion of Blinatumomab in the WHO Essential Medicines List for Children (EMLc)

Dear EML Secretariat,

On behalf of the **Pakistan Society of Pediatric Oncology (PSPO)**, I am pleased to strongly endorse the application submitted by **Resonance Inc.** for the inclusion of **blinatumomab** in the WHO Essential Medicines List for Children (EMLc).

Blinatumomab, a bispecific T-cell engager (BiTE) immunotherapy, has revolutionized the treatment of **relapsed or refractory B-cell acute lymphoblastic leukemia (B-ALL)** in children. As pediatric oncologists practicing in resource-limited settings like Pakistan, we confront the dire consequences of relapsed/refractory ALL daily, where therapeutic options are limited, and outcomes remain unacceptably poor. The inclusion of blinatumomab in the EMLc would represent a transformative advancement in narrowing global disparities in childhood cancer care and significantly improving survival rates.

Rationale for Endorsement**1. Superior Efficacy in High-Risk B-ALL**

Blinatumomab has demonstrated **higher remission rates and survival benefits** compared to conventional chemotherapy, offering a critical lifeline for children with refractory or relapsed disease.

2. Favorable Safety Profile

Unlike intensive salvage chemotherapy, which is often poorly tolerated in low-resource settings, blinatumomab provides a **targeted, less toxic alternative**, enhancing treatment feasibility and quality of life for vulnerable patients.

3. Bridge to Curative Therapy

Pakistan Society of Pediatric Oncology

For children eligible for **hematopoietic stem cell transplantation (HSCT)**, blinatumomab can induce deep molecular remissions, **maximizing transplant success rates** and long-term survival.

4. Advancing Global Equity in Cancer Care

Despite its proven benefits, access to blinatumomab remains **severely restricted in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs)** due to cost and procurement challenges. Inclusion in the EMLc would **accelerate affordability, regulatory approvals, and sustainable access** through national and global health initiatives.

Urgent Need in Pakistan and Comparable Settings

In Pakistan, where **childhood cancer survival rates trail high-income countries** due to delayed diagnoses, financial barriers, and limited treatment infrastructure, blinatumomab's inclusion in the EMLc would be a **watershed moment**. Streamlined procurement and approval mechanisms would empower oncologists to deliver this **life-saving therapy** to children who currently have no alternatives.

We urgently appeal to the WHO Expert Committee to **approve blinatumomab's inclusion in the EMLc**, aligning with the **WHO Global Initiative for Childhood Cancer (GICC)** goal of achieving **at least 60% survival for all children with cancer by 2030**. This decision would reaffirm WHO's commitment to **equitable access to cutting-edge therapies** and offer hope to countless children worldwide.

Yours Sincerely,



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