

Dear WHO Expert Committee Members,

I write this letter on behalf of the International Society of Paediatric Oncology (SIOP) in support of inclusion of blinatumomab in the WHO Essential Medicines List for infants, children, adolescents, and adults.

SIOP is the global Society that represents paediatric oncology experts and clinicians from all countries and continents. Our mission that no child should die of cancer leads us to support the application to add blinatumomab to the WHO EML and WHO EMLc to cover everyone with CD19 positive cancers who will benefit from its use in frontline, relapsed, and refractory settings. Recent data from adult and paediatric study groups has documented event-free survival benefits of 10% to 30% (depending on patient characteristics and clinical situation), so universal access to this medication is the only barrier to increasing the cure rate for acute lymphoblastic leukemia, the most common childhood cancer.

Inclusion of blinatumomab in the WHO Model List of Essential Medicines and EMLc 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.

Inclusion of all age groups (EML and EMLc) is important for our Society since most of our members manage patients up to 21 years of age, and in some cases up to age 39 years. All age groups benefit from blinatumomab as an essential component of therapy for CD19-positive ALL and non-Hodgkin lymphoma.

Therefore, SIOP fully endorses and strongly supports this application and urges the Committee to approve blinatumomab for inclusion.

Sincerely,



Guillermo Chantada, MD
President, International Society of Pediatric Oncology (SIOP)