



IMMONC
IMMUNE ONCOLOGY
RESEARCH INSTITUTE

April 3, 2025

Dear WHO Expert Committee,

As a pediatric hematologist/oncologist, Chairman of the Department of Hematology and Pediatric Oncology at Yerevan State Medical University, President of the International Society of Pediatric Oncology (SIOP) Asia Continental Branch, President of the Pediatric Oncology East and Mediterranean (POEM) Group—which represents 28 countries and 110 pediatric cancer centers—and CEO of the Immune Oncology Research Institute, I am committed to ensuring equitable access to innovative, life-saving treatments for pediatric cancer patients globally. My role has provided me a firsthand understanding of the critical disparities in cancer care, particularly in low- and middle-income countries, underscoring the urgent need for essential medicines like blinatumomab.

Blinatumomab is a bispecific T-cell engager that has significantly improved outcomes for children with B-cell acute lymphoblastic leukemia (B-ALL). Many of our pediatric patients, who have limited response to conventional chemotherapy, have benefited remarkably from this targeted therapy, experiencing higher remission rates and reduced treatment-related toxicity. Its availability is often a defining factor in the survival and quality of life for these young patients.

Including blinatumomab in the WHO Model List of Essential Medicines for Children will profoundly impact the accessibility of this critical therapy in resource-limited settings. Such inclusion will not only facilitate procurement processes and integration into national treatment guidelines but also send an unequivocal signal to national health authorities and global funding mechanisms to prioritize access to essential, transformative pediatric cancer therapies.

I strongly and respectfully urge the WHO Expert Committee to approve the inclusion of blinatumomab on the Essential Medicines List for Children, reinforcing our shared commitment to reduce survival disparities and improve outcomes for children fighting cancer worldwide.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Tamamyan', with a stylized, cursive script.

Yours sincerely

Gevorg Tamamyan, MD, MSc, PhD, DSc

Chairman and Professor of the Department of Hematology and Pediatric Oncology,
Yerevan State Medical University

CEO of the Immune Oncology Research Institute

President of the International Society of Pediatric Oncology (SIOP) Asia Continental
Branch

President of the Pediatric Oncology East and Mediterranean (POEM) Group

Editor-in-chief of OncoDaily