

#### **C.4 Medicines for diseases of the nervous system - S5**

MSF welcomes the proposals from the WHO Department of Mental Health, Brain Health and Substance, for changes on Section 5 “Medicines for diseases of the nervous system” of the WHO Model List of Essential Medicines (EML) and Model List of Essential Medicines for Children (EMLc).

MSF strongly supports the following changes in Section 5:

1. Rename Section 5. “Medicines for diseases of the nervous system” to “Medicines for neurological disorders”.
2. Relocate the current Section 7 “anti-migraine medicines” to Section 5 “Medicines for neurological disorders”.
4. Add a new section entitled “Medicines for disorders of the peripheral nervous system”.
  - 4a. Duplicate in this section the current listing for “normal immunoglobulin” currently listed in sub-section 11.2. “Blood and blood components” with the indication solely for Guillain-Barré syndrome and the intravenous formulation, without removing it from Section 11.2.
  - 4b. In the above section, duplicate the current listing for neostigmine and pyridostigmine, currently listed in Section 20 “Muscle relaxants (peripherally-acting) and cholinesterase inhibitors” with an indication for myasthenia gravis, without changes to the current specifications or removing it from Section 20.
5. Replace the current “\*” observation message for valproic acid (sodium valproate) regarding its harmful effects in women and girls of child-bearing potential in line with the new guidance provided by the WHO mhGAP guidelines as follows: “*Valproic acid (sodium valproate) is not recommended in women and girls of childbearing potential owing to the high risk of birth defects and neurodevelopmental disorders in children exposed to valproic acid (sodium valproate) in the womb*”.

MSF would like to draw the attention of the Expert Committee to the following points regarding some renaming:

3. Add a new section entitled “Medicines for brain infections” within Section 5. MSF would like to suggest “Medicines for Central Nervous System infections” for this new section.
  - 3a. Add in this section a new sub-section entitled “Viral brain infections” and duplicate the current listing for aciclovir and valaciclovir currently listed in sub-section “6.4 Antiviral medicines”, without changes to the current specifications or removing it from Section 6.4. MSF would like to suggest “Viral Central Nervous System infections” for this new sub-section.
  - 3b. In the above section on “Medicines for brain infections”, add a new sub-section entitled “Bacterial brain infections” and duplicate the current listings for amoxicillin, ampicillin, benzylpenicillin, cefotaxime, ceftriaxone, chloramphenicol, gentamicin and meropenem in sub-sections 6.2.1 “Access group antibiotics” and 6.2.2 “Watch group antibiotics” “Antibacterials”

without changes to the current specifications or removing them from Section 6.2.1 and 6.2.2. MSF would like to suggest “Bacterial Central Nervous System infections” for this new sub-section.

MSF supports and urges the 25th Expert Committee on the Selection and Use of Essential Medicines for the consideration of renaming the Section 5, creating new subsections, duplicating and relocating the proposed subsections.

MSF highly recommends to the 25th Expert Committee on the Selection and Use of Essential Medicines to include the contraindication of valproic acid for women and girls of childbearing age in line with the new guidance provided by the WHO mhGAP guidelines, in Section 5 of the WHO Model List of Essential Medicines.



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