

Ljubljana, 28.3.2025

The Secretary
WHO Expert Committee on Selection and Use of Essential Medicines
Department of Health Products Policy and Standards
World Health Organization, Geneva

Re: Adding Prednisolone (or Prednisone) 1mg tablets to the Essential Medicines List

Dear Madam, Dear Sir,

We are writing in support of the submission put forward from Professor Karim Meeran from Imperial College London to include Prednisolone 1mg or Prednisone 1mg tablets for patients with primary, secondary and tertiary adrenocortical insufficiency. Some countries currently have prednisone available at 5mg minimum dose and others have prednisolone 5mg. These are very cost-effective glucocorticoid drugs.

Currently, hydrocortisone is on the list for these indications.

The cost of hydrocortisone is higher than prednisolone (or prednisone), and many countries are using prednisolone (or prednisone) 5mg tablets off licence. Prednisolone (or prednisone) is licenced at higher doses for autoimmune diseases, but we need lower doses for adrenal insufficiency. Emerging evidence suggests that lower doses pose less cardiovascular risk than higher doses. The availability of 1mg tablets will allow careful and more accurate replacement.

Sincerely,



Prof Tomaž Kocjan, MD PhD
Slovenian Endocrine Society
Board member
tomaz.kocjan@kclj.si



Aleš Skvarča, MD PhD
Slovenian Endocrine Society
President
ales.skvarca@kclj.si