

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

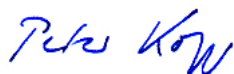
Re: Adding Prednisolone and/or Prednisone 1mg tablets to the Essential Medicines List

Dear Madam, Dear Sir,

We hereby express our strong support for the submission of Professor Karim Meeran from Imperial College London, which calls for the inclusion of Prednisolone 1 mg and/or Prednisone 1 mg tablets for the treatment of patients diagnosed with primary, secondary, and tertiary adrenocortical insufficiency.

At present, only Hydrocortisone is listed for these indications. However, physicians in numerous countries utilize Prednisone or Prednisolone for adrenal insufficiency off label due to its significantly lower cost. In many countries, prednisone and prednisolone are only available as 5 mg tablets, which is the minimal dose, a dose that is too high for many patients. To adjust the dose appropriately, 1 mg tablets of prednisone or prednisolone will permit a more accurate substitution therapy with these very cost-effective glucocorticoids.

For the afore mentioned reasons, the Swiss Society for Endocrinology and Diabetology hereby expresses its unreserved support for this initiative.



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