

MEMORANDUM

From: Director, GCP **To:** Director, HTS **Date:** 21 May 2021

Our ref: **Attention:**

Your ref: WHOHQ-E19-81-17 **Through:**

Originator: pb/skc **Subject:** MEETING OF THE 23rd EXPERT
COMMITTEE ON SELECTION AND
USE OF ESSENTIAL MEDICINES,
21 JUNE - 2 JULY 2021

I would like to thank you for requesting the input of the AMR Global Coordination Department concerning the applications received for the inclusion of certain antibiotics and antifungal agents in the Model List of Essential Medicines (EML) and the Model List of Essential Medicines for Children (EMLc).

Our Department has reviewed the applications for the addition of the antibiotic cefiderocol for infections due to multidrug-resistant organisms in the EML and the addition of echinocandin antifungals for the treatment of invasive fungal infections in the EML and EMLc. Please find our full response to the proposed applications in the annex to this Memo.

Overall, we support the inclusion of cefiderocol in the EML and the echinocandin antifungals for the treatment of invasive fungal infections in the EML and EMLc, for the indications outlined in their respective applications.

We would like to bring the following aspects to the Committee's attention:

Access and affordability: Cefiderocol is a new antibiotic and the current pricing level of the echinocandins is still relatively high for generic products. Inclusion of these medicines in the EML would signal the need that they become accessible and affordable, globally. This will warrant establishing mechanisms and programmes to expand access and ensure appropriate use, particularly in low-income countries. Therefore, we encourage the EML Committee to consider access, affordability and stewardship for these lifesaving treatments.

Review of the EML for reserve antibiotics: Between July 2017 and September 2020 11 new antibiotics have been authorized by either FDA, EMA or both, out of which five have been considered by the EML committee so far. Another eight antibiotics targeting WHO priority pathogens are currently at the end stage of clinical development. In light of this, we recommend that

the EML Committee undertakes a review of all reserve antibiotics that are currently on the EML, to provide a more focused guidance to the WHO Member States as to which of these new antibiotics are considered essential from a public health perspective and should be included in relevant access programmes.

Should you have any questions regarding these comments, please do not hesitate to contact Dr Peter Beyer, (beyerp@who.int), or Dr Hatim Sati ([satihat@who.int](mailto:satih@who.int)), AMR Global Coordination Department.

Finally, I would like to thank you for your continued cooperation.

ENCL.: (1)

Approval for eDocument - HQ-2021-DOCS-eMemo-86628

| Action | Action Taken By | Received On(UTC) | Action Taken On(UTC) | Comments | Attachments |
|-----------|-----------------------|---------------------|----------------------|----------|-------------|
| Submitted | KOTUR CORLISS, Sandra | NA | 21-May-2021 2:58 PM | | |
| Cleared | BEYER, Peter | 21-May-2021 3:00 PM | 21-May-2021 3:04 PM | | |
| Cleared | GETAHUN, Haileyesus | 21-May-2021 3:08 PM | 21-May-2021 3:13 PM | | |
| Approved | ONDARI, Clive | 21-May-2021 3:20 PM | 21-May-2021 3:32 PM | | |