

## **C.2 Proposal to upgrade cefalexin to first choice for skin and soft tissue infections on the WHO Model List of Essential Medicines and WHO Model List of Essential Medicines for Children**

MSF supports the proposal to upgrade cefalexin from “second choice” to “first choice” in the core list in section 6.2.1 Access group antibiotics, in the WHO Model List of Essential Medicines (EML) and WHO Model List of Essential Medicines for Children (EMLc), for the treatment of skin and soft tissue infections in adults and children.

Cefalexin is included in the EML since 2009. Since 2017, cefalexin is included in the core list in section 6.2.1 Access group antibiotics of both the EMLs, as a second choice for the treatment of skin and soft tissues infections. In the electronic EML, the indications listed for cefalexin are Bacterial cellulitis, erysipelas and lymphangitis.

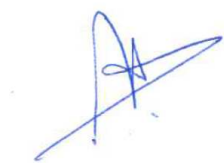
The two other antibiotics listed in the EMLs for these indications are cloxacillin and amoxicillin + clavulanic acid. Upgrading cefalexin to first choice will allow prescribers to have the choice between 3 antibiotics, equivalent in terms of safety and efficacy.

MSF recommends using oral cefalexin as one of the first choice antimicrobial treatment for a range of skin and soft tissue infections due to staphylococci and/or streptococci such as carbuncles, erysipelas, superficial cellulitis and periorbital cellulitis, in adults and children, except in penicillin-allergic patients.

MSF has been using cefalexin in its programs since 2013.

MSF urges the 23<sup>rd</sup> Expert Committee on the Selection and Use of Essential Medicines to upgrade cefalexin from “second choice” to “first choice” in the core list in section 6.2.1 Access group antibiotics of both the WHO Model List of Essential Medicines and the WHO Model List of Essential Medicines for Children, for the treatment of skin and soft tissue infections in adults and children.

For Médecins Sans Frontières



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