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O.9 - Proposal for a comprehensive revision of the mental health chapter on the WHO Model List of Essential Medicines and the WHO Model List of Essential Medicines for Children

MSF strongly supports the proposal of the WHO Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse (MSD) for a comprehensive revision of the mental health chapter for the 2023 update of the WHO Model List of Essential Medicines and WHO Model List of Essential Medicines for Children.

This review will allow the establishment of coherence between the current recommendations of the WHO Department of Mental Health and Substance Use and the section of medicines for mental and behavioural disorders (section 24) in both the WHO Model List of Essential Medicines and the WHO Model List of Essential Medicines for Children.

Addition of indications for medicines for mental disorders as well as describing disorders in terms of the International Classification of Diseases 11th revision (ICD-11) categories should be considered. ICD-11 was officially presented at the World Health Assembly in May 2019 and will be used as the official reporting system by member states beginning January 1, 2022. This ICD -11 diagnostic category is already used in the 2013 WHO Guidelines for the Management of Conditions Specifically Related to Stress.

Inclusions, deletions and changes should be carefully considered, ensuring consistency with the current WHO guidelines and recommendations available through the mental health Gap Action Programme (mhGAP) Evidence Resource Centre.

MSF urges the 23rd Expert Committee on the Selection and Use of Essential Medicines to recommend that a rigorous and comprehensive revision of the mental health chapter be conducted for the 2023 update of the WHO Model List of Essential Medicines and the WHO Model List of Essential Medicines for Children.

For Médecins Sans Frontières

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