F.4	Ferrous salt + folic acid – tablet containing 60 mg elemental iron + 2.8 mg folic acid – EML
Draft recommendation	☐ Recommended ☒ Not recommended Justification: The authors have provided a good body of evidence on the following their two previous applications on effectiveness of WIFAS. There has also been significant engagement of organisations working in the area of adolescent health and anemia including UNICEF and WHO. It also proposes a weekly dosing which could provide improved compliance compared to existing options. However, the public health relevance still seems weak in my opinion especially considering that anemia related to menstruation in women and girls of child bearing age could be addressed by already existing combinations of iron and folic acid supplements.
Does the proposed medicine address a relevant public health need?	☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ Not applicable Comments: The global prevalence of 29% of non-pregnant women of reproductive age (WRA) (age 15-49 years) for anemia may not require an extra intervention especially when compared to the general population. This is even higher in children (60%). This is a public health need that can also be addressed by existing options, especially strengthening capacities of healthcare workers to identify risk groups and provide appropriate treatment.
Does adequate evidence exist for the efficacy/effectiveness of the medicine for the proposed indication? (this may be evidence included in the application, and/or additional evidence identified during the review process)	☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not applicable Comments: There are systematic reviews with GRADE tables suggesting comparative effectiveness of intermittent iron supplements in certain aspects but worthy of note is that additional folic acid did not confer additional benefits.
Does adequate evidence exist for the safety/harms associated with the proposed medicine? (this may be evidence included in the application, and/or additional evidence identified during the review process)	☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not applicable Comments:

Are there any adverse effects of concern, or that may require special monitoring?	☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ Not applicable Comments:
Are there any special requirements for the safe, effective and appropriate use of the medicines? (e.g. laboratory diagnostic and/or monitoring tests, specialized training for health providers, etc)	☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ Not applicable Comments:
Are there any issues regarding cost, cost-effectiveness, affordability and/or access for the medicine in different settings?	☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not applicable Comments: The evidence for comparative cost-effectiveness (with existing options within the EML) is lacking. Cost effectiveness data for long term use is absent.
Are there any issues regarding the registration of the medicine by national regulatory authorities? (e.g. accelerated approval, lack of regulatory approval, off-label indication)	☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ Not applicable Comments:
Is the proposed medicine recommended for use in a current WHO guideline? (refer to: https://www.who.int/publications/who-guidelines)	☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not applicable Comments: *Intermittent iron and folic acid supplementation is recommended as a public health intervention in menstruating women living in settings where anaemia is highly prevalent, to improve their haemoglobin concentrations and iron status and reduce the risk of anaemia (strong recommendation)*