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## **D.1 Antituberculosis medicines: 2021 deletion recommendations**

### **WHO Global Tuberculosis Program proposal:**

- **Deletion from the Core List of the WHO Model List of Essential Medicines for Children: Ethambutol 25 mg/ml oral liquid, Isoniazid 50 mg/5 ml oral liquid, Pyrazinamide 30 mg/ml oral liquid.**
- **Deletion from the Complementary Lists of both the WHO Model List of Essential Medicines and the WHO Model List of Essential Medicines for Children: Ethionamide 125 mg tablet.**

In 2021, the WHO Global Tuberculosis Program has proposed to remove these formulations from both the WHO Model List of Essential Medicines (EML) and the WHO Model List of Essential Medicines for Children (EMLc) and MSF has supported all these deletions from both the EML and the EMLc. The 2021 Expert Committee on the Selection and Use of Essential Medicines did not recommend the deletion of the oral liquid formulations of ethambutol 25 mg/ml oral liquid isoniazid 50 mg/5 ml oral liquid, pyrazinamide 30 mg/ ml oral liquid, nor a 125 mg tablet formulation of ethionamide, due to concerns about limited uptake and availability of preferred dispersible tablet formulations in some countries<sup>1</sup>.

All the oral formulations proposed for removal are not child-friendly, therefore MSF supports all these removals since child-friendly formulations (dispersible tablets) of these four antituberculosis medicines, are available, reach internationally agreed quality standards, and are listed on both the EMLs.

In 2023, MSF notes that in the WHO Global Tuberculosis Program proposal, only ethionamide 125 mg tablet is proposed to be deleted from both the EML and EMLc, whereas ethambutol 25 mg/ml oral liquid, isoniazid 50 mg/5 ml oral liquid and pyrazinamide 30 mg/ ml oral liquid are proposed to be deleted from EMLc only. MSF would like to draw the attention of the Expert Committee to this fact

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<sup>1</sup> The selection and use of essential medicines: report of the WHO Expert Committee on Selection and Use of Essential Medicines, 2021 (including the 22nd WHO Model List of Essential Medicines and the 8th WHO Model List of Essential Medicines for Children). Geneva: World Health Organization; 2021 (WHO Technical Report Series, No. 1035). <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240041134>

and would like to emphasize that all these four antituberculosis formulations should be deleted from both the EML and the EMLc.

Therefore, MSF urges the 24<sup>th</sup> Expert Committee on the Selection and Use of Essential Medicines to delete all the anti-tuberculosis medicines listed in this application from both the WHO Model List of Essential Medicines and the WHO Model List of Essential Medicines for Children.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized loop followed by a horizontal stroke and a small vertical tick at the end.

**Dr. Daniela Belen Garone**

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