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DRAFT

WHO Model ESSENTIAL MEDICINES LIST for children

These are a few early comments :

1- A WHO Model List and Formulary on Essential medicines for children are urgently needed by Latin-american and Caribbean countries.

2- Medicines information available to doctors in my country comes mostly from pharmaceutical industries , and in a general way it is scarce and of poor quality.

3- In Argentina there is not a National Essential Medicines List for children

4- One issue of debate is the age break of the target population for the WHO EML for children

In my opinion , we can not exclude young adults < 18 years old, because they are not included in most of the clinical trial which are used as evidence for the WHO EML (proved indications, dosage, long term impact of medicines use on further CNS development of the children, etc), with few exceptions

Acetylsalicylic acid , for example, should not be prescribed in people younger than 16 years (risk of Reye's syndrome).

Several NICE guidelines, for example, are made to be applied to children and young people.¹ They include neonates (0 weeks or older and younger than 4 weeks); infants (4 weeks or older and younger than 52 weeks); pre-school children (1 year or older and younger than 5 years); primary school children (5 years or older and younger than 11 years); and young people (11 years or older and younger than 18 years)

¹ NICE Guideline 15 July 2004 Type 1 diabetes: diagnosis and management of type 1 diabetes in children, young people and adults