

Project Coordinator

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Dr Suzanne Hill
Scientist
Policy, Access and Rational Use
Medicines Policy and Standards
World Health Organization
CH-1211 Geneva 27
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21 May 2007

Dear Dr Suzanne Hill,

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to review the WHO Model List of Essential Medicines for Children.

This document has been forwarded to the FIP Board of Pharmaceutical Practice, in order to obtain the views of these groups.

Please find the comments attached, bearing in mind that they are direct quotes from the reviewer.

We look forward to continuing our collaboration with your department.
Should you have any other queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Xuanhao Chan
FIP Project Coordinator

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Draft WHO Essential Medicines List for Children

Comments from FIP

21 May 2007

To have such a list is very important and it should also include information about a safe use for children. Accessibility is mentioned several times but safety of use may be even more important.

The list obviously refers to official national drug lists rather than to clinical experience which is indispensable to determine strength and dosage form suitable for children. A list where special information is needed could be published in a Medical Journal to ask for responses from clinicians.

As a second step, a ranked list of medicines should be provided to manufacturers where suitable dosage forms and strengths are still missing.

These are more practical suggestions. With regard to the list itself I am not sure whether it contains adequate number medicines against Neurodermitis (including those without steroids) as this disease becomes more and more frequent in children. I also agree that the chapter on antineoplastic drugs including medicines to reduce pain and manage adverse drug reactions needs a specific review.

Doxycycline in children (antibiotic and malaria)...dental implications? Dental implications in general Gentian Violet still being used? (Also Calamine lotion?) In the PSA Update that we received the other day (April 2007) there were a few related topics which you could refer back to Wendy eg Iron poisoning in children.

More of interest was the report from a study in US Paediatric Hospitals that showed that more than 4 out of 5 (80%!!) of drug treatments in these hospitals were off-licence, ie were treatments for adult only approved medicines. Shouldn't these findings also be taken into account when considering treatments in disaster/emergency contexts?

Gentian Violet: animal carcinogenicity has restricted its use Rf.Martindale 32nd Edn. pg1111

Doxycycline: is indicated in adults and children older than 10 years.
Precautions: The use of the drugs of the tetracycline class, including doxycycline, during tooth development (latter half of pregnancy, infancy and childhood to the age of 8 years) may cause permanent discolouration of the teeth (yellow- grey-brown).
