


5th May 2007


The Asia Pacific Immunoglobulins in Immunology Expert Group represents authorities in the diagnosis and management of primary immunodeficiency diseases (PIDs) from the Asia Pacific countries of Australia, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Singapore and New Zealand. This group has discussed the inclusion of therapeutic immunoglobulins for subcutaneous use in the Essential Medicines List for Children today. We, the undersigned, believe that this is vitally important for the treatment of children with PIDs in that immunoglobulin (polyvalent human immunoglobulins) given by this route is safe, efficacious and the route of choice for neonates and children with PIDs.


PIDs are conditions caused by inherent defects of the immune system that lead to recurrent, severe or unusual infections, which can be fatal. Therapeutic immunoglobulins are the only effective therapy for life-long treatment of many PIDs, as evidenced by the inclusion of therapeutic immunoglobulins in the WHO Essential Medicines List in March 2007 [15th edition].


The inclusion of polyvalent human Immunoglobulins given by the subcutaneous route in the EML for children will enable more children with PIDs to receive this type of life-long therapy, particularly in view of the large distances to reach expert centres in some of these countries, as SCIg is easy to use safely in local centres. Avoidance of permanent access portals reduces infectious risk & the lack of need for expensive consumables for administration improves compliance, especially in the transition from childhood and adolescence, as well as proven advantages for quality of life. SCIg is already the first choice for one of the paediatric units in this region, with over 60% of children receiving replacement immunoglobulin therapy by this route.


Signed,

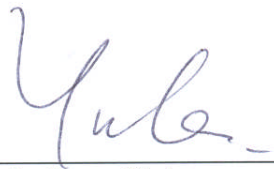

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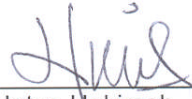

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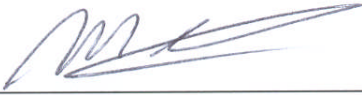
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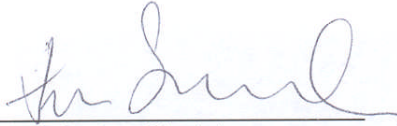
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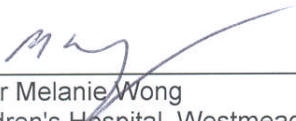
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