14. DIAGNOSTIC AGENTS
14.1 Ophthalmic medicines

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>'Green'</th>
<th>'Yellow'</th>
<th>'Red' or 'Pink'</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>fluorescein eye drops</td>
<td>none</td>
<td>none</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tropicamide eye drops</td>
<td>none</td>
<td>none</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For proposed 'greens': Is there any reason not to endorse these as essential medicines for children? No

- Do these medicines meet a public health need?
  Yes
- Are they registered for use in children?
  Yes
- Are there any unanswered/unexpected clinical issues with respect to effectiveness or safety?
  No
- Are there special requirements or training needed for safe/effective use?
  Yes
  - Use of fluorescein requires skills in eye examination using a slit-lamp (by ophthalmologists) or plain ultraviolet light (by non-opthalmologists).
  - Tropicamide eye drops are used by ophthalmologists for refraction (mydriasis and cycloplegia) for diagnostic procedures.

- Additional comments if any:
  - Fluorescein applied during eye examinations is useful in the diagnosis of corneal abrasions, corneal ulcers, herpetic corneal infections, etc.
  - Tropicamide eye drops may rarely cause CNS disturbances which may be dangerous in pediatric patients. Psychotic reactions, behavioural disturbances, and vasomotor or cardiorespiratory collapse in children have been reported with the use of anticholnergic drugs.
- Action proposed for the Committee to take
  - Endorse fluorescein eye drops as essential.
  - Endorse tropicamide eye drops as essential but with precaution/warning note.

14.2 Radiocontrast media (Note: needs careful review)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>'Green'</th>
<th>'Yellow'</th>
<th>'Red'</th>
<th>'Pink'</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>iohexol injection</td>
<td>amidotrizoate injection</td>
<td>none</td>
<td>barium sulphate aqueous suspension meglumine iotroxate solution</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For proposed 'greens': Is there any reason not to endorse these as essential medicines for children? No

- Does this medicine meet a public health need?
  Yes
- Is it registered for use in children?
  Yes
- Are there any unanswered/unexpected clinical issues with respect to effectiveness or safety?
  No
- Are there special requirements or training needed for safe/effective use?
  Yes
  Require skills in radiology.
Iohexol Injection is an iodine-containing contrast media injected or infused into a vein, artery, joint, intrathecally or other body part prior to x-rays or CT scans.

Action proposed for the Committee to take
Endorse as essential. Usual precautions for contrast media.

For proposed 'yellows': Are these essential medicines for children? Yes

- Do these medicines meet a public health need?
  - Yes
- Are they registered for use in children?
  - No
- Are there any unanswered/unexpected clinical issues with respect to effectiveness or safety?
  - No
- Additional comments if any
  I could not find published reports on amidotrizoate injection. I would be happy to review any documents that you may have.

Action proposed for the Committee to take

For 'pinks':

1. **Barium sulphate aqueous suspension** – Suggest change to ‘green” code.

Is there any reason not to endorse these as essential medicines for children? No

- Does this medicine meet a public health need?
  - Yes
- Is it registered for use in children?
  - Yes
- Are there any unanswered/unexpected clinical issues with respect to effectiveness or safety?
  - No
- Are there special requirements or training needed for safe/effective use?
  - Yes
  - Require skills in radiology.

- Additional comments if any

Barium swallow, performed with fluoroscopy or spot films may be indicated to evaluate swallowing mechanics, the presence on congenital deformities (e.g. tracheo-esophageal fistulas, vascular rings, esophageal atresia, etc), gastroesophageal reflux and other conditions. The procedure entails a risk of aspiration and requires special training. Barium enema is useful to determine the extent of affected area in congenital aganglionic megacolon (Hirschprung disease) prior to surgery.

Action proposed for the Committee to take
Endorse as essential.

2. **Meglumine iotroxate solution** is an iodinated, water-soluble contrast medium for intravenous cholegraphy. Probably not essential for use in children. Maintain as “pink”.