1. Assessment of efficacy

a. Have all relevant studies on efficacy been included
   Yes  No (if no, please provide reference and information)

b. Summarize the data on efficacy, in comparison to what is listed in EML where applicable (limit to 2 to 3 sentences)

Topical benzoyl peroxide may be more effective at reducing the total lesion count or the number of inflammatory and non-inflammatory lesions at 4 to 12 weeks in people with moderate acne (low-quality evidence).

Efficacy in combination with topical and systemic antibiotics is well documented.

c. Please provide any additional relevant information with reference


2. Assessment of safety

a. Have all relevant studies on safety been included
   Yes  ✓
b. Summarize the data on safety, in comparison to what is listed in EML where applicable (limit to 2 to 3 sentences)

Adverse effects were observed in 29% of BP 5% versus 7% with placebo use (Hunt 1992). Adverse effects included dryness, scaling, burning, tingling, and redness.

Reducing frequency of application or temporarily discontinuing treatment helps with irritation.

c. Please provide any additional relevant information with reference

Please see trial ref-s above.

3. Assessment of cost and availability
a. Have all relevant data on cost been provided
   No ✓ (this is a review of a already listed product)

b. Summarize the data on cost and cost effectiveness, in comparison to what is listed in EML where applicable (limit to 2 to 3 sentences)
   NA

c. Please provide any additional relevant information with reference
   NA

d. Is the product available in several low and middle income countries?
   Yes

4. Assessment of public health need
a. Please provide the public health need for this product (1-2 sentences)

Acne vulgaris is a very common skin condition. Estimates of prevalence indicate that between 50-80% of teenagers between 14-16 year of age have this condition which can affect the quality of life. Acne also occurs, but is rare, in children below the age of 10. The prevalence declines in individuals above the age of 25, although it occurs regularly in those between the ages of 25-40.

b. Do guidelines (especially WHO guidelines) recommend this product? If yes, which ones? List 1 or 2 international preferable
   Yes (e.g. The Global Alliance to Improve Outcomes in Acne, US, UK)

5. Are there special requirements for use or training needed for safe/effective use?
   No

6. Is the proposed product registered by a stringent regulatory authority?
   Yes ✓

7. Any other comments

   NA

Benzoyl peroxide review
8. What is your recommendation to the committee (please provide the rationale)

It is recommended that benzoyl peroxide should be retained on the WHO list of essential medicines for both adults and children. It is the first line treatment for acne, one of the common skin conditions, mostly affecting younger age group. It is effective, safe and easily available worldwide for topical treatment of acne.