Cancer Medicines Review
WHO Model List of Essential Medicines

Submitting organization:
Union for International Cancer Control

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Recipient:
20th Expert Committee on the Selection and Use of Essential Medicines,
World Health Organization
A Review of the Cancer Medicines included in Section 8 – Antineoplastics of the World Health Organization Model List of Essential Medicines

Dear Members of the WHO Expert Committee,

On behalf of 90 contributors from around the world, the Union for International Cancer Control hereby submits a full assessment of the cancer medicines considered suitable for inclusion on the World Health Organization (WHO) Model List of Essential Medicines.

The Union for International Cancer Control (UICC) is a NGO in official relations with WHO. Established in 1933 and headquarters based in Geneva, UICC is a membership organisation comprising over 800 members in over 155 countries.

In preparing the present submission, a multidisciplinary task team and internationally diverse group of core reviewers determined the malignancies which are high burden and/or for which response to systemic therapies is significant. Twenty-nine pediatric and adult cancers were included according to this criteria (explained further in appended “Methodologies”).

Authors and peer reviewers developed disease-based briefings and standard treatment protocol recommendations comprising of largely first line treatment regimens only. The full list of essential cancer medicines was derived from these documents. A total of 52 agents are thus recommended to be included in the core WHO essential medicines list, 22 of which are new. No medicines are recommended for deletion.

The UICC core reviewers consulted professional organisations including the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO), the European Society of Medical Oncology (ESMO), and the International Society of Pediatric Oncology (SIOP). The Dana-Farber Cancer Institute held a leadership role in this initiative, and the process was coordinated by Dr. Lawrence N. Shulman and Ms. Claire M. Wagner.

We also recommend a more frequent review process for the antineoplastics section of the WHO model essential medicines list, building on the methodology and platform created in this 2014 submission. More frequent reviews would be consistent with the rapidly changing, and advancing, nature of cancer therapy in our current era.

Yours sincerely,

Julie Torode on behalf of the Union for International Cancer Control
Deputy CEO, Union for International Cancer Control