February 26, 2013

The Secretary of the 19th Expert Committee on Selection and Use of Essential Medicines
Medicine Access and Rational Use
Department of Essential Medicines and Health Products World Health Organization
20 Avenue Appia
CH-1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland
Email: elmsecretariat@who.int

Dear Sir or Madam,

The World Federation of Hemophilia (WFH) endorses the inclusion of Whole Blood and Red Blood Cells in the WHO Essential Medicines List and WHO Essential Medicines List for Children.

The WFH believes that the placement of these products on the Essential Medicines lists will result in better care for patients, better management and use of medicines and more cost effective use of health resources. The provision of safe, adequate and cost effective Whole Blood and Red Blood Cells that are appropriately transfused or manufactured into plasma products is a key component of the public health infrastructure in every country.

As a consequence of good manufacturing practices being introduced in blood establishments the quality of plasma will increase to a level that it will be made suitable for fractionation. Therefore, we believe that this process will lead to improvement of the whole blood transfusion chain.

We thank you for your consideration of this endorsement.

Alain Weill
President, World Federation of Hemophilia

Alok Srivastava, MD
Vice President Medical, World Federation of Hemophilia