The Secretary of the 19th Expert Committee on the Selection and Use of Essential Medicines  
Department of Essential Medicines and Health Products  
World Health Organisation  
20 avenue Appia  
CH-1211 Geneva  
Switzerland

Dear Sir or Madam,

The Platform of Plasma Protein Users is a consortium made up of several organisations representing patients living with treatable rare plasma related disorders such as haemophilia, primary immunodeficiencies and alpha1 anti-trypsin deficiency among others.

With this letter, PLUS would like to express its support to the inclusion of Whole Blood and Red Blood Cells to the List of Essential Medicines which already lists life-saving plasma derived medicinal products such as coagulation factors and immunoglobulins.

PLUS believes the inclusion of whole blood and red blood cells on the WHO List of Essential Medicines will contribute towards better treatment and care for patients. Safe and effective blood (either for transfusion or to recover plasma for manufacture into plasma derived medicinal products) and red blood cells are key components to all healthcare systems. PLUS strongly believes in the need for increased plasma supply to meet patient needs based on both recovered and plasmapheresis plasma. PLUS believes that inclusion on the list will help promote their public health importance.

Yours sincerely,

Johan Prévot  
On behalf of PLUS Steering Committee

Please reply to: johan@ipopi.org, PLUS, Firside, Main Road, PL11 3LE Downderry, United Kingdom