19th Expert Committee on The Selection and Use of Essential Medicines

April 8-12 2013

Expert peer review on application for Palliative care – create new section on EMLc

1. Arguments in favor

Would be consistent with recommendations in 2 WHO guidelines

A number of letters of support

Medicines for palliative care currently listed in multiple sections: 8.4 in 8: Antineoplastic, immunosuppresives and medicines for palliative care; 2.2

Access to opioid analgesics is poor in many areas, current positioning on list indicates secondary status

Need for palliative care medicines is growing – not just restricted to cancer

Listings are not linked to indications

2. Arguments against

Policy and legal restrictions

7. Any other comments

Child and adult lists should be consistent, so if change is made also make in adult list

Some medicines on palliative care list are not elsewhere on EMLc (eg laxatives) – need to be listed where opioids are listed

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

Recommend create separate section