



November 30th, 2012

Two proposals for additions of cancer medicines to the WHO Model List of Essential Medicines

Dear Members of the WHO Expert Committee,

Please find enclosed full proposals for the inclusion of two additions to the WHO Model List of Essential Medicines: Imatinib and Trastuzumab.

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 770 members in over 150 countries.

Drawing on the expertise across its membership, UICC convened an “Essential Medicines Task Team” to reflect on the most needed cancer medicines that are currently not included in the WHO Model EML and EMLc. This small task team, composed of individuals with expertise on cancer management in resource-limited countries (names and affiliations are included in the appendix), has analysed the existing cancer-related medicines in the WHO Model list and proposed new additions based on their therapeutic added value resulting in significant lives saved, and extended survival, and their feasibility of routine use in such settings.

This group consulted professional organisations under the umbrella of UICC and their individual members via a survey. These included the International Affairs Committee of the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO), European Society of Medical Oncology (ESMO) and the International Society of Pediatric Oncology (SIOP).

Final selection of candidate medicines was made by the task team. A working group led by Professor Lawrence Shulman of the Dana Farber Cancer Institute in Boston prepared the proposals herewith submitted to the Expert Committee for review in April 2013.

Second, UICC would like to request a formal section review of the antineoplastic medicines be commissioned in a timely manner for the Expert Committee review scheduled for 2015. Recognising that this is a considerable undertaking, UICC offers the Expert Committee the opportunity to draw on the vast expertise within its broad membership both in a technical as well as a geographical sense. We will be glad to learn more about the individual steps required in a formal section review and pledge to consider additional supportive activities such as convening expert meetings.

Yours sincerely,

Lawrence N. Shulman
On behalf of the UICC EM Task Team
Director, Center for Global Cancer Medicine
Chief, Division of General Oncology
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

Julie Torode
Deputy CEO
Union for International Cancer Control (UICC)



Appendix

Composition of the UICC essential medicines task team

Lawrence Shulman
Director Chief of Staff
Senior VP for Medical Affairs
Director, Center for Global Cancer Medicine
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston.

Kennedy Lishimpi
Executive Director and Clinical Radiation Oncologist
Cancer Diseases Hospital, Lusaka, Zambia.

Ian Magrath
President
International Network for Cancer Treatment and Research.

Ronnie Barr
Pathology and Medicine Chief, Service of Hematology-Oncology,
Departments of Pediatrics
McMaster Children's Hospital
SIOP PODC Working Group on essential medicines.

Tezer Kutluk
President of Turkish Association for Cancer Research and Control
Member of UICC Board of Directors.

Composition of the working group for the 2013 applications

Lawrence N. Shulman, MD
Chief of Staff
Senior VP for Medical Affairs
Director, Center for Global Cancer Medicine
Dana-Farber Cancer Center
Boston, MA 02215

Leslie Lehmann, MD
Director, Pediatric Hematopoietic Stem Cell Program
Dana-Farber Cancer Center
Boston Children's Hospital
Boston, MA 02215

Lidia Schapira MD
Medical Oncologist
Gillette Center for Breast Oncology
Massachusetts General Hospital
Boston, MA 02214