

CONSULTANCY

Terms of Reference

This consultancy is requested by:

Unit:	MRD
Department:	MCA

1. Purpose of the Consultancy

The purpose of this consultancy is to support and coordinate the revision and update of “WHO guidelines on the pharmacological treatment of persisting pain in children with medical illnesses” which was published in 2012. The scope will include a draft of the guideline document.

2. Background

Pain in children is a public health concern of major significance in most parts of the world. For many children, this pain is chronic. As the leading cause of morbidity in children and adolescents in the world today, chronic disease (and its associated pain) is a major health concern. Pain lasting for longer than 3 months is defined as “chronic,” and is reported by approximately 25% of children and adolescents. The first approach to manage pain is often pharmacological.

The WHO guidelines for pharmacological treatments for children's persisting pain acknowledge that pain in children is a major public health concern of high significance in most parts of the world. While in the past, pain was largely dismissed and was frequently left untreated, the relief of pain is now seen as important.

The 2012 WHO guideline document, which is in need of updating, was discontinued in 2019 to allow for a revision that takes into consideration current scientific evidence that has emerged since the time of their publication and addresses current public health challenges relevant to the pharmacological treatment of persisting pain in children with medical illnesses.

3. Planned timelines (subject to confirmation)

Start date: 10/01/2019

End date: 30/06/2020

4. Work to be performed

Output 1: Systematic review of qualitative evidence on sociocultural acceptability related to pharmacologic management of persisting pain in children, the outcomes from this intervention and their potential risks. The perspectives sought should be around: (i) safety and efficacy of use of medicines for pain in children, (ii) dependence and misuse potential, and (iii) the public health benefits and risks of different strategies for ensuring appropriate access.

The synthesis of qualitative evidence should include the perspective of both those implementing (e.g. hospital personnel) and those benefiting (children and their families) from the pharmacologic management of persisting pain in children, that is:

- The cognitive and emotional response to the intervention, outcome and their potential risks
- The extent to which the intervention and risks are seen to be appropriate or desirable

- Sociocultural acceptability of the intervention and risks to the public and other relevant stakeholder groups
- Impact on autonomy of concerned stakeholders

Deliverable 1.1: Analytic framework for systematic review

Deliverable 1.2: Search strategy

Deliverable 1.3: Collection, synthesis and CERQual assessment of evidence

If the search for evidence shows very thin data, primary data collection may be necessary.

Deliverable 1.4: Interpretation, presentation and reporting of the evidence

Deliverable 1.5: Presentation of the findings to the Guideline Development Group

Output 2: Coordination of the guideline process and drafting of guideline document.

Deliverable 2.1: Convene and facilitate the meeting of the guideline development group (GDG) to define the scope and prioritize the outcomes for the guideline

Deliverable 2.2: Coordinate and synthesize the results of a public consultation on the scope of the guideline

Deliverable 2.3: Finalize the planning proposal, based on inputs from the guideline development group (GDG) and public consultation on the scope of the guideline

Deliverable 2.4: Collate all evidence into the evidence-to-decision framework in preparation for the GDG meeting to formulate recommendations

Deliverable 2.5: Convene and facilitate the meeting of the GDG to interpret the evidence presented, come to consensus, and formulate recommendations

Deliverable 2.6: Draft the guideline document, including revisions based on GDG and steering group comments, for submission to the Guidelines Review Committee

5. Technical Supervision

The selected Consultant will work on the supervision of:

Responsible Officer:	Ayesha de Costa, Scientist Pura Rayco-Solon, Scientist	Email:	deay@who.int raycosolonp@who.int
Manager:	Rajiv Bahl, Coordinator, MRD/MCA	Email:	bahlr@who.int

6. Specific requirements

- Qualifications required:

Essential: A first university degree in public health, medicine, pharmacology, anaesthesia, epidemiology, social science, behavioural science, applied research and other relevant subject; combined with an advanced university degree (corresponding to a Masters University degree) in research, evidence synthesis, policy research or other related field

Desirable: An advanced university degree (corresponding to a Doctorate level degree) in medicine, public health or other related field

- Experience required:

Essential: A minimum of 10 years' experience in the field of research, policy or patient management

Desirable: Experience with WHO, the UN or other international organizations; Experience in developing evidence-based guidance or policy

- Skills / Technical skills and knowledge:

Essential:

- Experience in synthesising qualitative evidence
- Experience of providing scientific or technical advice to national or international bodies
- Experience of engaging with diverse stakeholder groups including from government, academia, and civil society
- Awareness and understanding of the public health needs of low and middle-income countries
- Demonstrated ability to work under pressure and to deliver high quality written work within short timelines

Desirable skills and experience:

- Senior scientific and/or clinical expertise in the treatment of chronic pain in children or pain in the context of palliative care in children or academic publication record in any of the following or related areas:
 - pharmacological treatment for chronic pain in children
 - pain management in the context of palliative care in children
 - opioids in the management of chronic pain in children
 - evidence and effectiveness of treatments for chronic pain in children

- Language requirements:

Essential: English (expert level)

Desirable: French (intermediate level)

7. Place of assignment

Remote, with travel to Geneva is expected (see item #9).

8. Medical clearance

The selected Consultant will be expected to provide a medical certificate of fitness for work.

9. Travel

The Consultant is expected to travel according to the itinerary and estimated schedule below:

Travel dates				Location:
From	(dates to be determined) 2019	To	(dates to be determined) 2019	Geneva, Switzerland
Purpose:		To convene and facilitate the GDG meeting to define scope and outcomes		

Travel dates				Location:
From	(dates to be determined) June 2020	To	(dates to be determined) June 2020	Geneva, Switzerland
Purpose:		To convene and facilitate the GDG meeting on formulate recommendations		

*All **travel arrangements** will be made by WHO – WHO will not be responsible for tickets purchased by the Consultant without the express, prior authorization of WHO. While on mission under the terms of this consultancy, the Consultant will receive **subsistence allowance**.*

*Visas requirements: it is the consultant's responsibility to fulfil **visa requirements** and ask for visa support letter(s) if needed.*