

Terms of Reference

This Agreement for Performance of Work (APW) is requested by:

Initiator:	Ayesha de Castro and Pura Rayco-Solon	Reg.#:	
Unit:	MRD	Cluster / Dpt.:	ULC / MCA

1. *Purpose of the APW

The purpose of this Agreement for Performance of Work is to support the 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 systematic review of evidence on effectiveness and safety of pharmacologic management of persisting pain in children.

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: 01/01/2020

End date: 30/06/2020

Total duration: 6 months

4. *Requirements - Work to be performed

Objective 1: Systematic review on effectiveness of pharmacologic management of persisting pain in children, including evidence from non-randomized controlled trials, observational studies and indirect evidence, as necessary.

This review should focus on the balance of health benefits and harms, including synthesis of evidence on:

- Effectiveness of pharmacologic treatment of persisting pain in children
- Safety risk profile of the intervention
- Broader positive or negative health-related impacts

Output 1.1: Analytical framework for the systematic review

Output 1.2: Search strategy, PRISMA study flow diagram and table of characteristics of included studies

Output 1.3: Data analyses and summary of findings tables

Output 1.4: Systematic review report, including the results, interpretation and presentation of the systematic review (and meta-analysis, if appropriate)

Output 1.5: Presentation of findings to the Guideline Development Group

5. *Requirements - Planning

	Outputs	Timeline (indicative)	Date expected (indicative)
1.0	Countersigned contract	-	
1.1	Analytical framework for the systematic review	1 month	31 January 2020
1.2	Search strategy, PRISMA study flow diagram and table of characteristics of included studies	3 months	30 April 2020
1.3	Data analyses and summary of findings tables	1 month	31 May 2020
1.4	Systematic review report, including the results, interpretation and presentation of the systematic review (and meta-analysis, if appropriate)	2 weeks	15 June 2020
1.5	Presentation of findings to the Guideline Development Group	2 weeks	30 June 2020

6. Inputs

The Technical Officers will provide the key question(s) in population, intervention, comparator and outcome (PICO) format.

7. *Activity Coordination & Reporting

Technical Officer:	Ayesha de Costa, Scientist Pura Rayco-Solon, Scientist	Email:	deay@who.int raycosolonp@who.int
For the purpose of:	Technical supervision and instructions		
Administrative Officer:	Tania Teninge	Email:	teninget@who.int
For the purpose of:	Contractual and financial management of the contract		

8. *Characteristics of the Provider

Essential skills and experience:

- Experience in synthesising evidence
- 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
- Demonstrated ability to work under pressure and to deliver high quality written work within short timelines

Desirable skills and experience:

- 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

9. *Place of assignment

The provider is expected to travel to present findings at the Guideline Development Group meeting (tentatively on June 2020 in Geneva, Switzerland).