

**Invitation to manufacturers of Zinc-Sulfate  
to submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) for product evaluation to the  
WHO Prequalification of Medicines Programme**  
(November 2008)

To support national and global efforts to increase access to and the affordability of management of acute diarrhoea in children, WHO, together with UNICEF and USAID, invite manufacturers of pharmaceutical products to submit **Expressions of Interest (EOI)** for product evaluation.

### **Article 1. Procedure for this Invitation to EOI**

The current Invitation is published in accordance with the *Procedure for prequalification of pharmaceutical products*, adopted in 2001 by the 37<sup>th</sup> WHO Expert Committee on Specifications for Pharmaceutical Preparations, and amended subsequently as part of the 43<sup>rd</sup> report of the Committee, published as [No. 953 of the WHO Technical Report Series](#) in 2009.

Assessment of product(s) submitted under this Invitation will include evaluation of:

- product dossiers, which must include product data and information as specified in the [guidelines for submission](#)
- manufacturing sites, which must adhere to [good manufacturing practices](#) (GMP)
- clinical sites (if applicable), which must adhere to [good clinical practices](#) (GCP).

If evaluation demonstrates that a product and its corresponding manufacturing (and clinical) site(s) meet WHO recommended standards, it will be included in the [list](#) of medicinal products that are considered to be acceptable for procurement by UN organizations and others.

### **Article 2. Medicinal products invited**

The aim of this Invitation is to increase the range of selected products and sources available in relation to management of acute diarrhoea.

In supplement to oral rehydration salts zinc sulfate has been identified by the WHO Department of Child and Adolescent Health and Development as essential to the management of acute diarrhoea in children. Zinc sulfate is included in the [WHO Model List of Essential Medicines](#) and in [The treatment of diarrhoea: A manual for physicians and other senior health workers](#).

Products included in the WHO Model List of Essential Medicines are those which satisfy the priority health care needs of a population. They are selected on the basis of disease

prevalence, evidence on efficacy and safety, and comparative cost-effectiveness.

Products included in WHO treatment guidelines are selected on the basis of an assessment of the quality of evidence for benefits, harms, costs, and appropriateness for use in a variety of situations, taking into account needs of special populations, and the values and preferences of the groups (professional and patient) using them.

Interested manufacturers are encouraged to submit documentation for recommended dosage forms and strengths, as specified below:

<b>Zinc sulfate</b>	dispersible tablets	10 mg, 20 mg
	oral liquid	10 mg per unit of dosage forms
	tablets	10 mg, 20 mg

Because the burden of diarrhoea is in early childhood, especially among children less than 2 years of age, dispersible tablets are the preferred formulation for the ease of administration and logistics.

### **Article 3. How to submit an Expression of Interest**

In order to submit an expression of interest for product evaluation, the manufacturer must send the requested documentation, arranged according to the information provided on the WHO Prequalification of Medicines Programme web site at [www.who.int/prequal/](http://www.who.int/prequal/) section "Information for Applicants".

### **Article 4. Quality assessment procedure following submission of an expression of interest by a manufacturer**

The quality assessment is undertaken to evaluate whether the pharmaceutical product being evaluated meets the requirements recommended by WHO, and is manufactured in compliance with good manufacturing practices (GMP).

The procedure established by WHO for quality assessment incorporates:

- general understanding of the production and quality control activities of the manufacturer;
- assessment of product data and information on safety, efficacy and quality submitted by the manufacturer, including product formulation, manufacture and test data and results;
- assessment of the manufacturing site's adherence to GMP, and its consistency in production and quality control of starting materials, with specific emphasis on active pharmaceutical ingredients, and finished product;
- assessment of clinical testing units or organizations (i.e. parties performing one or more clinical trials with the product) for compliance with good clinical practices and

- good laboratory practices, as appropriate;
- random sampling and testing of medicines supplied.

Once WHO is satisfied that quality assessment has been completed for the manufacturer of the relevant starting materials, the finished pharmaceutical product, and the clinical testing units, and that the product meets WHO recommended standards, the product (as produced at the specified manufacturing site) is added to the [WHO List of Prequalified Products](#).

## **Article 5. References and further information**

"The treatment of diarrhoea: A manual for physicians and other senior health workers", WHO, Geneva 2005; available at:  
<http://whqlibdoc.who.int/publications/2005/9241593180.pdf>

"Implementing the new recommendations on the clinical management of diarrhoea: Guidelines for policy makers and programme managers", WHO, Geneva 2006; available at: [http://whqlibdoc.who.int/publications/2006/9241594217\\_eng.pdf](http://whqlibdoc.who.int/publications/2006/9241594217_eng.pdf)

"Production of zinc tablets and zinc oral solutions: Guidelines for programme managers and pharmaceutical manufacturers", WHO, Geneva 2007; available at:  
[http://whqlibdoc.who.int/publications/2007/9241594942\\_eng.pdf](http://whqlibdoc.who.int/publications/2007/9241594942_eng.pdf)