

# Vaccine Approved

A Chinese-produced vaccine against Japanese encephalitis has received prequalification from the World Health Organization (WHO), according to a statement made by the China Food and Drug Administration (CFDA) on October 9.

It is the first Chinese-produced vaccine to be added to the WHO's list of prequalified medicines, according to the CFDA.

The move indicates that the WHO has given the vaccine a stamp of approval regarding safety and efficacy, and UN procuring agencies

can source it.

The vaccine has been on the Chinese market since 1988 and about 600 million doses have been administered, reducing the incidence and casualty rates of Japanese encephalitis, the CFDA said.

The vaccine only needs to be administered in one dose, can be given to infants, and is less expensive than other similar products, said a WHO press release, adding that the vaccine will "make the protection of more children in developing countries easier."