

23.01.2020

To whom it may concern,

I am very worried and concerned regarding the proposal to screen all children under the age of 3 as a "preventative measure for mental illness".

The diagnostic tools are not precise or scientific. Subjective analysis will result in giving extremely variable outcomes. Many of these apparent "symptoms" are things which are common in children, or could be symptoms of physical conditions and not mental at all – sleeping trouble may be resulting from reflux and or food allergies, etc.

Until there is precise technology to provide definitive diagnosis of an illness, screening seems to be an expensive and very dangerous to the infants who are wrongly prescribed psychoactive medication.

Psychiatry should be held to the same sort of standard as other disciplines such as Engineering. Please do not allow this change to take place. This is putting lives of children and others at risk.