Dexamethasone is a corticosteroid used in the treatment of various conditions where corticosteroids are indicated, including pain and oedema due to malignancy, nausea and vomiting, and in treatment protocols for some blood tissue cancers.

**General description**

**INN**
Dexamethasone

**ATC codes**
H02AB02 C05AA09 L01AA01

**Medicine type**
Chemical agent

**EML status history**
- First added in 1977 (TRS 615) for Lymphoid leukaemia, not elsewhere classified
- Added in 1984 (TRS 722) for Allergic or hypersensitivity conditions of unspecified type
- Added in 1991 (TRS 825) for Palliative care
- Added in 2009 (TRS 958) for Nausea or vomiting
- Added in 2013 (TRS 985) for Respiratory distress syndrome of the newborn, altered by maternal corticosteroid therapy
- Added in 2019 (TRS 1021) for Plasma cell myeloma
- Added in 2021 (TRS 1035) for Burkitt lymphoma including Burkitt leukaemia
- Added in 2023 (TRS 1049) for Anaplastic large cell lymphoma, ALK-negative
- Added in 2023 (TRS 1049) for Anaplastic large cell lymphoma, ALK-positive

**Recommendations**

**Section**
Hormones and antihormones

| Oral > Liquid: 2 mg per 5 mL |
| Oral > Solid: 2 mg; 4 mg |
| Parenteral > General injections > unspecified: 4 mg per mL in 1 mL ampoule (as disodium phosphate salt) |
| Oral > Solid: 4 mg |

**Indications**

- Lymphoid leukaemia, not elsewhere classified
- Plasma cell myeloma
- Burkitt lymphoma including Burkitt leukaemia
- Anaplastic large cell lymphoma, ALK-positive
- Anaplastic large cell lymphoma, ALK-negative
Antiallergics and medicines used in anaphylaxis

Parenteral > General injections > unspecified: 4 mg per mL in 1 mL ampoule (as disodium phosphate salt)

Indications
- Allergic or hypersensitivity conditions of unspecified type

Antiemetic medicines

Oral > Liquid: 0.5 mg per 5 mL; 2 mg per 5 mL
Oral > Solid: 0.5 mg; 0.75 mg; 1.5 mg; 4 mg
Parenteral > General injections > unspecified: 4 mg per mL in 1 mL ampoule (as disodium phosphate salt)

Indications
- Nausea or vomiting

Other medicines administered to the mother

Parenteral > General injections > unspecified: 4 mg per mL (dexamethasone phosphate (as sodium))

Indications
- Respiratory distress syndrome of the newborn, altered by maternal corticosteroid therapy

Medicines for other common symptoms in palliative care

Oral > Liquid: 2 mg per 5 mL
Oral > Solid: 2 mg; 4 mg
Parenteral > General injections > unspecified: 4 mg per mL in 1 mL ampoule (as disodium phosphate salt)

Indications
- Palliative care