

Cefotaxime

Essential medicine status

General description

Cefotaxime is a 3rd-generation cephalosporin

INN

Cefotaxime

ATC codes

[J01DD01](#)

Medicine type

Chemical agent

Antibiotic groups

[WATCH](#)

EML status history

First added in 2009 ([TRS 958](#)) for [Bacterial infection of unspecified site](#)

Added in 2017 ([TRS 1006](#)) for [Bacterial meningitis](#)

Added in 2017 ([TRS 1006](#)) for [Osteomyelitis or osteitis](#)

Added in 2017 ([TRS 1006](#)) for [Bacterial infection of joint](#)

Added in 2017 ([TRS 1006](#)) for [Sepsis without septic shock](#)

Added in 2017 ([TRS 1006](#)) for [Peritoneal abscess](#)

Added in 2017 ([TRS 1006](#)) for [Peritonitis](#)

Removed in 2017 ([TRS 1006](#)) for [Bacterial infection of unspecified site](#)

Added in 2017 ([TRS 1006](#)) for [Bacterial pneumonia](#)

Added in 2017 ([TRS 1006](#)) for [Other specified pneumonia](#)

Added in 2017 ([TRS 1006](#)) for [Acute pyelonephritis](#)

Added in 2017 ([TRS 1006](#)) for [Inflammatory and other diseases of prostate](#)

Added in 2025 ([TRS 1064](#)) for [Bacterial meningitis](#)

Wikipedia

[Cefotaxime](#)

DrugBank

[Cefotaxime](#)

Recommendations

Section

Watch group antibiotics

- Parenteral > General injections > unspecified: 250 mg in vial powder for injection (as sodium salt)
- Parenteral > General injections > unspecified: 250 mg in vial powder for injection (as sodium salt); 500 mg in vial powder for injection (as sodium salt); 1 g in vial powder for injection (as sodium salt); 2 g in vial powder for injection (as sodium salt)

Indications

**First choice**

[Bacterial meningitis](#) [Peritonitis \(mild-moderate\)](#) [Peritonitis \(severe\)](#) [Bacterial pneumonia \(Community-acquired pneumonia - severe\)](#) [\[children\]](#) [Bacterial pneumonia \(Community-acquired pneumonia - severe\)](#) [Other specified pneumonia \(Hospital-acquired pneumonia\)](#) [Acute pyelonephritis \(severe\)](#) [Inflammatory and other diseases of prostate \(severe\)](#) [Peritoneal abscess \(mild-moderate\)](#) [Peritoneal abscess \(severe\)](#)

**Second choice**

[Osteomyelitis or osteitis](#) [Bacterial infection of joint](#) [Sepsis without septic shock](#) [Acute pyelonephritis \(mild to moderate\)](#) [Inflammatory and other diseases of prostate \(mild to moderate\)](#)

Other indications

[Bacterial infection of unspecified site](#)

Section

Medicines for bacterial central nervous system infections

- Parenteral > General injections > unspecified: 250 mg in vial powder for injection (as sodium salt); 500 mg in vial powder for injection (as sodium salt); 1 g in vial powder for injection (as sodium salt); 2 g in vial powder for injection (as sodium salt)

Indications

**First choice**

[Bacterial meningitis](#)