




General description

Cefotaxime is a 3rd-generation cephalosporin

INN	Cefotaxime
ATC codes	J01DD01
Medicine type	Chemical agent
Antibiotic groups	 WATCH
EML status history	<p>First added in 2009 (TRS 958) for Bacterial infection of unspecified site</p> <p>Added in 2017 (TRS 1006) for Bacterial meningitis</p> <p>Added in 2017 (TRS 1006) for Osteomyelitis or osteitis</p> <p>Added in 2017 (TRS 1006) for Bacterial infection of joint</p> <p>Added in 2017 (TRS 1006) for Sepsis without septic shock</p> <p>Added in 2017 (TRS 1006) for Peritoneal abscess</p> <p>Added in 2017 (TRS 1006) for Peritonitis</p> <p>Removed in 2017 (TRS 1006) for Bacterial infection of unspecified site</p> <p>Added in 2017 (TRS 1006) for Bacterial pneumonia</p> <p>Added in 2017 (TRS 1006) for Other specified pneumonia</p> <p>Added in 2017 (TRS 1006) for Acute pyelonephritis</p> <p>Added in 2017 (TRS 1006) for Inflammatory and other diseases of prostate</p> <p>Added in 2025 (TRS 1064) for Bacterial meningitis</p>
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

Other specified pneumonia (Hospital-acquired pneumonia)

Bacterial meningitis

Bacterial pneumonia (Community-acquired pneumonia - severe) [children]

co-prescribed with [amikacin](#)

Acute pyelonephritis (severe)

co-prescribed with [amikacin](#)

Inflammatory and other diseases of prostate (severe)

co-prescribed with [clarithromycin](#)

Bacterial pneumonia (Community-acquired pneumonia - severe)

co-prescribed with [metronidazole](#)

Peritoneal abscess (severe)

co-prescribed with [metronidazole](#)

Peritoneal abscess (mild-moderate)

co-prescribed with [metronidazole](#)

Peritonitis (mild-moderate)

co-prescribed with [metronidazole](#)

Peritonitis (severe)

Second choice

Inflammatory and other diseases of prostate (mild to moderate)

Acute pyelonephritis (mild to moderate)

Sepsis without septic shock

Bacterial infection of joint

Osteomyelitis or osteitis

Other indications

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

