18. Medicines for endocrine disorders

18.5. Medicines for diabetes

18.5.2. Oral hypoglycaemic agents

**Metformin**

**Indication**
Type 2 diabetes mellitus

**INN**
Metformin

**Medicine type**
Chemical agent

**List type**
Core (EML) Complementary (EMLc)

**Formulations**
Oral > Solid: 500 mg (hydrochloride)

**EML status history**
First added in 1997 (TRS 882) Changed in 2007 (TRS 950)

**Sex**
All

**Age**
Also recommended for children

**Therapeutic alternatives**
The recommendation is for this specific medicine

**Patent information**
Patents have expired in most jurisdictions

**Wikipedia**
Metformin

**DrugBank**
Metformin

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**Summary of evidence and Expert Committee recommendations**

The EMLc Subcommittee noted that there is an emerging need for oral anti diabetic drugs suitable for children due to the increasing obesity epidemic and increasing Type II diabetes in children. The Subcommittee noted that glibenclamide and metformin were still primarily used in adult populations for Type II diabetes. The potential need of these medicines in adolescents and children was recognized. The Subcommittee decided not to include glibenclamide in the EMLc at present. The Subcommittee decided to include metformin in the EMLc on the complementary list. This area should be reviewed at a subsequent meeting taking into account available medicines and the changing epidemiology of Type II diabetes in children under 12 years.