

[Metformin](#)

Essential medicine status

Section:

[18. Medicines for endocrine disorders 18.5. Medicines for diabetes 18.5.2. Hypoglycaemic agents](#)

ATC codes: [A10BA02](#)

EMLc

Indication

Type 2 diabetes mellitus ICD11 code: [5A11](#)

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

Read more [about patents](#).

Wikipedia

[Metformin](#)

DrugBank

[Metformin](#)

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.