# Hydrocortisone

## Indication

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INN</th>
<th>Hydrocortisone</th>
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## Medicine type

Chemical agent

## List type

Core (EML)  
Core (EMLc)

## Formulations

Local > Topical > Cream: 1% (acetate)  
Local > Topical > Ointment: 1% (acetate)

## EML status history

- First added in 1977 ([TRS 615](https://www.who.int/medicines/ governance/essentialmedicines/trs-615))
- Changed in 1979 ([TRS 641](https://www.who.int/medicines/ governance/essentialmedicines/trs-641))
- Changed in 2007 ([TRS 950](https://www.who.int/medicines/ governance/essentialmedicines/trs-950))
- Changed in 2021 ([TRS 1035](https://www.who.int/medicines/ governance/essentialmedicines/trs-1035))

## Sex

All

## Age

Also recommended for children

## Therapeutic alternatives

Medicines within the same pharmacological class can be used

## Therapeutic alternatives limitations

EML: Therapeutic alternatives are medicines in the 4th level ATC chemical subgroup: D07AA Corticosteroids, weak (group I).

## Therapeutic alternatives limitations for EMLc

The square box does not apply for the listing of hydrocortisone on the EMLc.

## Patent information

Patents have expired in most jurisdictions  
Read more about patents.

## Wikipedia

[Hydrocortisone](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hydrocortisone)

## DrugBank

[Hydrocortisone](https://www.drugbank.ca/drugs/DB00029)

### Summary of evidence and Expert Committee recommendations

Following the review of square box listings on the EML and EMLc, the Expert Committee recommended that medicines in 4th level ATC chemical subgroup, D07AA Corticosteroids, weak (group I), be specified as therapeutic alternatives under the square box listing for hydrocortisone on the EML for this indication. The square box does not apply to the listing of hydrocortisone on the EMLc for this indication.