## Erythromycin

**Section:** 6. Anti-infective medicines  >  6.2. Antibacterials  >  6.2.2. Watch group antibiotics

### Indication
- Bacterial infection of unspecified site

<table>
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<tr>
<th>INN</th>
<th>Erythromycin</th>
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### Medicine type
- Chemical agent

### Antibiotic groups
- **WATCH**

### List type
- Core

### Formulations
- Parenteral > General injections > IV: 500 mg in vial powder for injection (as lactobionate)
- Oral > Liquid: 125 mg per 5 mL (as stearate or ethylsuccinate)
- Oral > Solid: 250 mg (as stearate or ethylsuccinate)

### EML status history
- First added in 1977 ([TRS 615](https://_domains.who.int/trs/item/615))
- Changed in 1979 ([TRS 641](https://_domains.who.int/trs/item/641))
- Changed in 1987 ([TRS 770](https://_domains.who.int/trs/item/770))
- Changed in 2007 ([TRS 950](https://_domains.who.int/trs/item/950))
- Removed in 2017 ([TRS 1006](https://_domains.who.int/trs/item/1006))

### Sex
- All

### Age
- Also recommended for children

### Therapeutic alternatives
- Medicines within the same pharmacological class can be used

### Therapeutic alternatives limitations
- The square box only applies to the listing of erythromycin on the EML

### Therapeutic alternatives limitations for EMLc
- The square box does not apply to the listing of erythromycin on the EMLc

### Patent information
- Patents have expired in most jurisdictions
  - Read more about patents.

### Wikipedia
- Erythromycin

### DrugBank
- Erythromycin

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**Summary of evidence and Expert Committee recommendations**

Erythromycin was removed from the EML and EMLc following the comprehensive review of antibiotics by the Expert Committee in 2017. However, it is noted in the Model Lists as an alternative to clarithromycin for treatment of pharyngitis.