

Erythromycin

NOT RECOMMENDED AS AN
ESSENTIAL MEDICINE

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

		EMLc	ATC codes: J01FA01
Indication	Bacterial infection of unspecified site	ICD11 code: 1C81	
INN	Erythromycin		
Medicine type	Chemical agent		
Antibiotic groups	W WATCH		
List type	Core (EML) (EMLc)		
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) Changed in 1979 (TRS 641) Changed in 1987 (TRS 770) Changed in 2007 (TRS 950) Removed in 2017 (TRS 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 		

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

