

[Cefotaxime](#)

Essential medicine status

Section:

[5. Medicines for neurological disorders](#) [5.1. Medicines for central nervous system disorders](#) [5.1.6. Medicines for central nervous system infections](#) [5.1.6.1. Medicines for bacterial central nervous system infections](#)

ATC codes: [J01DD01](#)

EMLc

Indication

Bacterial meningitis ICD11 code: [8E71.0Z](#)

INN

Cefotaxime

Medicine type

Chemical agent

Antibiotic groups

[WATCH](#)

List type

Core

Additional notes

3rd generation cephalosporin of choice for use in hospitalized neonates.

Formulations

Parenteral > General injections > unspecified: 250 mg in vial powder for injection (as sodium salt) ; 500 mg in vial powder for injection (as sodium salt) ; 1 g in vial powder for injection (as sodium salt) ; 2 g in vial powder for injection (as sodium salt)

EML status history

First added in 2025 ([TRS 1064](#))

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

[Cefotaxime](#)

DrugBank

[Cefotaxime](#)

Expert Committee recommendation

Listings of medicines for treatment of bacterial central nervous system infections are duplicated in this section from section 6.

EML recommendations: Bacterial meningitis

First choice

Second choice

First choice

[cefotaxime](#)

[ceftriaxone](#)

[cefotaxime](#)

[ceftriaxone](#)

Second choice

[ampicillin](#)

[benzylpenicillin](#)

[amoxicillin](#)

[chloramphenicol](#)

[amoxicillin](#)

[ampicillin](#)

[benzylpenicillin](#)

[chloramphenicol](#)