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

EMLc | ATC codes: J01DD01

Indication	Bacterial meningitis ICD11 code: 1D01.0Z
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

cefotaxime

ceftriaxone

cefotaxime

ceftriaxone

ampicillin

benzylpenicillin

amoxicillin

chloramphenicol

amoxicillin

ampicillin

benzylpenicillin

chloramphenicol