

[Meropenem](#)

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: [J01DH02](#)

EMLc

Indication

Neonatal meningitis ICD11 code: [KA65.4](#)

INN

Meropenem

Medicine type

Chemical agent

Antibiotic groups

[WATCH](#)

List type

Complementary

Additional notes

imipenem + cilastatin is an alternative except for acute bacterial meningitis where meropenem is preferred.

Formulations

Parenteral > General injections > IV: 500 mg in vial (as trihydrate) powder for injection (EMLc) ; 1 g in vial (as trihydrate) powder for injection (EMLc)

EML status history

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

Sex

All

Age

Children (1 month - 12 years)

Age restriction

> 3 months.

Therapeutic alternatives

The recommendation is for this specific medicine

Patent information

Patents have expired in most jurisdictions

Read more [about patents](#).

Wikipedia

[Meropenem](#)

DrugBank

[Meropenem](#)

Expert Committee recommendation

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

EML recommendations: Neonatal meningitis

First choice

Second choice

First choice

[gentamicin](#)

[gentamicin](#)

Second choice

[meropenem](#)

[meropenem](#)