

# Paracetamol (acetaminophen)



Essential medicine status ✓

Section: 2. Medicines for pain and palliative care > 2.1. Non-opioids and non-steroidal anti-inflammatory medicines (NSAIDs)

|                          |  | EMLc             | ATC codes: N02BE01 |
|--------------------------|--|------------------|--------------------|
| Indication               | Pain   | ICD11 code: ML0Z |                    |
| INN                      | Paracetamol  |                  |                    |
| Medicine type            | Chemical agent   |                  |                    |
| List type                | Core (EML) (EMLc)  |                  |                    |
| Additional notes         | *Not recommended for anti-inflammatory use due to lack of proven benefit to that effect.<br>**The presence of both 120 mg/5 mL and 125 mg/5 mL oral liquid strengths on the same market would cause confusion in prescribing and dispensing and should be avoided. |                  |                    |
| Formulations             | Oral > Liquid: 125 mg per 5 mL ; 120 mg per 5 mL ; 250 mg per 5 mL (EMLc)<br>Local > Rectal > Suppository: 100 mg ; 250 mg (EMLc)<br>Oral > Solid > dispersible tablet: 100 mg (EMLc) ; 250 mg (EMLc)<br>Oral > Solid > tablet: 250 mg ; 325 mg ; 500 mg           |                  |                    |
| EML status history       | First added in 1977 (TRS 615)<br>Changed in 1979 (TRS 641)<br>Changed in 1987 (TRS 770)<br>Changed in 2007 (TRS 950)<br>Changed in 2017 (TRS 1006)<br>Changed in 2023 (TRS 1049)   |                  |                    |
| Sex                      | All  |                  |                    |
| Age                      | Also recommended for children  |                  |                    |
| Therapeutic alternatives | The recommendation is for this specific medicine   |                  |                    |
| Patent information       | Patents have expired in most jurisdictions<br>Read more <a href="#">about patents</a> .  |                  |                    |
| Wikipedia                | <a href="#">Paracetamol (acetaminophen)</a>  |                  |                    |
| DrugBank                 | <a href="#">Paracetamol (Acetaminophen)</a>  |                  |                    |

## Summary of evidence and Expert Committee recommendations

Following the review of the age-appropriateness of formulations on the EMLc, the Expert Committee recommended: - the deletion of the 100 mg tablet formulation from the EML and EMLc - strengths of paracetamol tablets should be specified rather than given in a range - the addition of a 250 mg strength suppository formulation to the EMLc - the addition of paracetamol dispersible tablets (100 mg and 250 mg) to the EMLc - the addition of 250 mg/5mL strength oral liquid formulation to the EMLc - the addition of a note stating "the presence of both 120 mg/5 mL and 125mg/5mL oral liquid strengths on the same market would cause confusion in prescribing and dispensing and should be avoided"

