

Essential medicine status 🗸

Section: 2. Medicines for pain and palliative care > 2.2. Opioid analgesics

		ATC codes: Pendi
Indication	Pain ICD11 code: ML0Z	
Medicine type	Chemical agent	
List type	Core	
Formulations	Oral > Solid: 30 mg tablet (codeine phosphate)	
EML status history	First added in 1984 (TRS 722)	
Sex	All	
Age	Adolescents and adults	
Therapeutic alternatives	The recommendation is for this specific medicine	
Patent information	Patents have expired in most jurisdictions Read more about patents.	
Wikipedia	Codeine 🗹	
DrugBank	Codeine 🗹	

Summary of evidence and Expert Committee recommendations

Codeine was added to the core list of the EML as an opioid analgesic in 1984 in addition to its original listings as an antitussive and antidiarrhoeal. A square box symbol was added to the analgesic listing in 1988 to accommodate alternative drugs. The square box was removed in 2003 following a review.

