## 2. Medicines for pain and palliative care
### 2.2. Opioid analgesics

**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](#)

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**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.