

		EMLc	ATC codes: N01AB06
Indication	Anaesthetics and therapeutic gases	ICD11 code: XM1880792884	
INN	Isoflurane		
Medicine type	Gas		
List type	Core (EML) (EMLc)		
Formulations	Respiratory > Inhalation > liquid:		
EML status history	First added in 2011 (TRS 965)		
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	Isoflurane 		
DrugBank	Isoflurane 		

Summary of evidence and Expert Committee recommendations

Isoflurane was added to the core list of the EML and EMLc as an inhalational anaesthetic in 2011. The Committee reviewed the evidence on inhalational anaesthetics. Currently halothane (square box) and nitrous oxide are the only inhalational anaesthetics on the EML. Halothane is widely used in both induction and maintenance, in adults and children but has been gradually replaced in developed countries by isoflurane, enflurane, desflurane, and sevoflurane for safety reasons. Ensuring availability of halothane is increasingly problematic in many settings. None of these medicines is best in all situations and the choice is determined by the availability of the medicines and specific vaporizers. The Committee decided to include isoflurane but not enflurane (due to the risks of convulsions) or sevoflurane (due to cost). Halothane should remain, but without a square box, as this would not be listed as the exemplar of all inhalation agents. Where available, halothane provides an affordable option for induction and maintenance. However, where availability is an issue, isoflurane provides an acceptable option for maintenance.

