### Chlorhexidine

#### Essential medicine status

ATC codes: **D08AC02**

**Indication**

Chlorhexidine  

**INN**

Chlorhexidine

**Medicine type**

Chemical agent

**List type**

Core

**Formulations**

Local > Topical > Solution: 5% (digluconate) for dilution

**EML status history**

- First added in 1979 (TRS 641)
- Changed in 2007 (TRS 950)
- Changed in 2009 (TRS 958)
- Changed in 2013 (TRS 985)
- Changed in 2021 (TRS 1035)

**Sex**

All

**Age**

Also recommended for children

**Therapeutic alternatives**

Medicines within the same pharmacological class can be used

**Therapeutic alternatives limitations**

- Therapeutic alternatives to be reviewed (2023)
- Therapeutic alternatives to be reviewed (2023)

**Patent information**

- Patents have expired in most jurisdictions

- Read more about patents.

**Wikipedia**

Chlorhexidine

**DrugBank**

Chlorhexidine

---

**Summary of evidence and Expert Committee recommendations**

Following the review of square box listings on the EML and EMLc, the Expert Committee recommended the therapeutic alternatives for chlorhexidine be reviewed.