



EMLc

ATC codes: R06AE03

Indication	Palliative care	ICD11 code: QC7A
INN	Cyclizine	
Medicine type	Chemical agent	
List type	Core (EML) (EMLc)	
Formulations	Oral > Solid: 50 mg tablet (EMLc) Parenteral > General injections > unspecified: 50 mg per mL (EMLc)	
EML status history	First added in 2009 (TRS 958)	
Sex	All	
Age	Children (1 month - 12 years)	
Therapeutic alternatives	The recommendation is for this specific medicine	
Patent information	Patents have expired in most jurisdictions Read more about patents . 	
Wikipedia	Cyclizine 	
DrugBank	Cyclizine 	

Summary of evidence and Expert Committee recommendations

In 2009, the EMLc Subcommittee considered the review of medicines for palliative care commissioned by the Secretariat to ensure that appropriate medicines for the pharmacological management of the most prevalent and distressing symptoms in children with life-threatening and life-limiting conditions worldwide are included in the EMLc. The Subcommittee noted that malignancy and HIV/AIDS were identified as the most common causes of childhood mortality appropriate to palliative care worldwide and that the 10 most frequent symptoms and symptom clusters (fatigue and weakness, pain, anorexia and weight loss, delirium and agitation, breathlessness, nausea and vomiting, constipation, depression, excess respiratory tract secretions and anxiety) had been identified based on available data. The Subcommittee noted that the evidence to support efficacy and safety of medicines used in the management of these symptoms was generally weak and therefore, several recommendations in the proposal were based on experience from clinical practice. To ensure appropriate first- and second-line management of nausea and vomiting due to different pathophysiological mechanisms, the proposal suggested that antiemetics with different mechanisms of action are required. The review proposed the following medicines: cyclizine (tablet: 50 mg; injection: 50 mg/ml), an antihistaminic antimuscarinic antiemetic that is effective for vomiting centre-mediated nausea and vomiting and levomepromazine (tablet: 25 mg; injection: 25 mg/ml) for chemo-receptor trigger zone-mediated nausea and vomiting. Although there is a lack of documented data on efficacy and safety, these two medicines are currently being used for this indication in some developed countries. Availability, especially of levomepromazine, may be a problem in many parts of the world. On balance, given that there is substantially more experience with the use of cyclizine, the Subcommittee recommended that it should be added to the EMLc in the dosage forms recommended specifically for use in palliative care. The Subcommittee considered the general principle of whether medicines listed for palliative care should also have indications of age restrictions. On the one hand, it was noted that for several of the medicines added to the EMLc in this section evidence of efficacy and safety at all ages was not available. Specifically: – cyclizine is not licensed for use in children under 6 years; – docusate sodium is not licensed for use in children under 6 months; – senna is not licensed for use in children under 2 years. The Subcommittee considered that the licensed indications may not always reflect existing evidence, and

also noted the importance of access to these products for children in need of palliative care, and therefore decided not to indicate age restrictions on the use of these products for this purpose.

