BCG vaccine

Essential medicine status

Section: 19. Immunologicals > 19.3. Immunologicals > Vaccines

EMLc | ATC codes: L03AX03

Indication	Need for immunization against tuberculosis ICD11 code: QC00.2
Medicine type	Biological agent
List type	Core
Formulations	All vaccines should comply with the WHO requirements for biological substances.
EML status history	First added in 1977 (TRS 615) Changed in 1999 (TRS 895) Changed in 2007 (TRS 946) Changed in 2007 (TRS 950) Changed in 2019 (TRS 1021)
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.
Tags	Biological
Wikipedia	BCG vaccine
DrugBank	Bcg vaccine

Summary of evidence and Expert Committee recommendations

WHO immunization policy recommendations are published in vaccine position papers on the basis of recommendations made by the Strategic Advisory Group of Experts on Immunization (SAGE). WHO vaccine position papers are updated three to four times per year. Vaccines listed on the 2019 Model List are those for which there is a recommendation from SAGE and a corresponding WHO position paper as at December 2018. The February 2018 version of the WHO position paper for BCG vaccine is attached. The most recent versions of the WHO position papers, reflecting the current evidence related to a specific vaccine and the related recommendations, can be accessed at any time on the WHO website at: http://www.who.int/immunization/documents/positionpapers/en/index.html. Vaccine recommendations may be universal or conditional (e.g., in certain regions, in some high-risk populations or as part of immunization programmes with certain characteristics). Details are available in the relevant position papers, and in the Summary Tables of WHO Routine Immunization Recommendations available on the WHO website at: http://www.who.int/immunization/policy/immunization_tables/en/index.html. Selection of vaccines from the Model List will need to be determined by each country after consideration of international recommendations, epidemiology and national priorities.