### Neostigmine

| Section: | 20. Muscle relaxants (peripherally-acting) and cholinesterase inhibitors |

**Indication** | Anticholinesterase reversible | ICD11 code: XM9D92 |

**INN** | Neostigmine bromide |

**Medicine type** | Chemical agent |

**List type** | Core |

**Formulations**
- Oral > Solid: 15 mg (neostigmine bromide)
- Parenteral > General injections > unspecified: 0.5 mg per mL in 1 mL ampoule (neostigmine metilsulfate); 2.5 mg per mL in 1 mL ampoule (neostigmine metilsulfate)

**EML status history**
- First added in 1977 (TRS 615)
- Changed in 1979 (TRS 641)
- Changed in 1989 (TRS 796)
- Changed in 2003 (TRS 920)
- Changed in 2007 (TRS 950)

**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** | Neostigmine |

**DrugBank** | Neostigmine |

### Summary of evidence and Expert Committee recommendations

The EMLc Subcommittee noted that neostigmine metilsulfate injection was the preferred agent for the reversal of non-depolarising muscle block and endorsed neostigmine injection for inclusion in the EMLc. While neostigmine bromide tablets are licensed for use in infants and children for the treatment of myasthenia gravis, the Subcommittee noted that pyridostigmine has fewer cholinergic adverse effects and is now regarded as the first-line drug treatment for myasthenia gravis. The Subcommittee endorsed neostigmine (injection and tablet forms) and pyridostigmine (injection and tablet forms) for inclusion in the EMLc, with the latter retained in the Complementary List.