

[Nifedipine](#)

Essential medicine status

Section:

[22. Medicines for reproductive health and perinatal care 22.4. Antioxytocics \(tocolytics\)](#)

ATC codes: [C08CA05](#)

Indication

Preterm labour without delivery ICD11 code: [JB00.0](#)

INN

Nifedipine

Medicine type

Chemical agent

List type

Core

Formulations

Oral > Solid: 10 mg (immediate-release)

EML status history

First added in 2005 ([TRS 933](#))

Sex

Female

Age

Adolescents and adults

Therapeutic alternatives

The recommendation is for this specific medicine

Patent information

Patents have expired in most jurisdictions

Read more [about patents](#).

Wikipedia

[Nifedipine](#)

DrugBank

[Nifedipine](#)

Summary of evidence and Expert Committee recommendations

An application was received from the UNDP/UNFPA/WHO/World Bank Special Programme of Research, Development and Research Training in Human Reproduction, the WHO Department of Reproductive Health and Research and BMJ Knowledge for the inclusion of nifedipine tablet and capsule 10mg and 20mg, as a tocolytic on the Model List. Comments were received from Médecins Sans Frontières. The Committee noted that there is strong evidence to support the use of nifedipine to inhibit preterm labour. Nifedipine was studied in 10 randomized controlled trials in a Cochrane review (1). The results indicated that, compared with any other tocolytic agent (mainly betamimetics), nifedipine or nifedipine reduced the frequency of neonatal respiratory distress syndrome, necrotizing enterocolitis, intraventricular haemorrhage and neonatal jaundice. The Committee concluded that nifedipine is effective and safe for this indication, and noted that the sublingual route is pharmacologically equivalent to the conventional oral route (1) because the medicine is absorbed low in the gastrointestinal tract. The Committee recommended that nifedipine (10-mg immediate release capsules) be included on the Model List in the subsection of tocolytics. 1. King JF et al. Calcium channel blockers for inhibiting preterm labour. Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews 2003, (1):CD002255 (<http://www.cochrane.org/cochrane/revabstr/AB002255.htm>, accessed 10 January 2005).