Budesonide

Essential medicine status

Section: 25. Medicines acting on the respiratory tract > 25.1. Antiasthmatic and medicines for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease

EMLc | ATC codes: R03BA02

Indication	Asthma ICD11 code: CA23
INN	Budesonide
Medicine type	Chemical agent
List type	Core
Formulations	**Respiratory > Inhalation > powder:** 100 µg per actuation in dry powder inhaler ; 200 µg per actuation in dry powder inhaler **Respiratory > Inhalation > suspension:** 100 µg per actuation in pressurized metered dose inhaler ; 200 µg per actuation in pressurized metered dose inhaler
EML status history	First added in 2007 (TRS 950) Changed in 2009 (TRS 958) Changed in 2021 (TRS 1035) Changed in 2025 (TRS 1064)
Sex	All
Age	Also recommended for children
Therapeutic alternatives	beclometasone (ATC codes: R03BA01) ciclesonide (ATC codes: R03BA08) fluticasone (ATC codes: R03BA05) mometasone (ATC codes: R03BA07)
Patent information	Patents have expired in most jurisdictions Read more about patents.
Wikipedia	Budesonide
DrugBank	Budesonide

Summary of evidence and Expert Committee recommendations

Following the review of the age-appropriateness of formulations of essential medicines for children, the Expert Committee recommended the following changes to the listing of budesonide on the EML and EMLc: - update the listing description of inhalation delivery systems for consistency across the Model Lists and to better reflect product characteristics; - to remove flunisolide as a therapeutic alternative to budesonide from the EML and EMLc due to low market availability.