Dexamethasone

Section: 2. Medicines for pain and palliative care > 2.3. Medicines for other common symptoms in palliative care

EMLc | ATC codes: C05AA09

Indication	Palliative care ICD11 code: QB9B
INN	Dexamethasone
Medicine type	Chemical agent
List type	Core
Formulations	**Oral > Liquid:** 2 mg per 5 mL (as sodium phosphate) ; 0.5 mg per 5 mL (as sodium phosphate) (EMLc) **Parenteral > General injections > unspecified:** 4 mg per mL in 1 mL ampoule (dexamethasone phosphate (as sodium phosphate) equialent to 3.3 mg dexamethasone base) **Oral > Solid > tablet:** 2 mg (as dexamethasone base) ; 4 mg (as dexamethasone base) ; 0.5 mg (as dexamethasone base) ; 0.75 mg (as dexamethasone base) ; 1.5 mg (as dexamethasone base)
EML status history	First added in 1991 (TRS 825) Changed in 2003 (TRS 920) Changed in 2009 (TRS 958) Changed in 2013 (TRS 985) Changed in 2025 (TRS 1064)
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	Dexamethasone
DrugBank	Dexamethasone

Summary of evidence and Expert Committee recommendations

Following the review of the age-appropriateness of formulations on the EMLc, the Expert Committee recommended: - the addition of dexamethasone oral liquid 0.5 mg/5 mL (as sodium phosphate) to the EMLc; - the addition of dexamethasone tablets 0.5 mg, 0.75 mg, 1.5 mg and 4 mg (as dexamethasone base) to the EML and EMLc; - to modify the listings to reflect the amount of dexamethasone in terms of dexamethasone salt or dexamethasone base.