

[Dexamethasone](#)

Essential medicine status

Section:

[2. Medicines for pain and palliative care](#) [2.3. Medicines for other common symptoms in palliative care](#)

ATC codes: [C05AA09](#)

EMLc

Indication

Palliative care ICD11 code: [QC7A](#)

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) equivalent 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

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DrugBank

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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.