Dapsone

Essential medicine status

Section: 6. Anti-infective medicines > 6.2. Antibacterials > 6.2.4. Antileprosy medicines

EMLc | ATC codes: J04BA02

Indication	Leprosy ICD11 code: 1B20.Z
INN	Dapsone
Medicine type	Chemical agent
List type	Core
Additional notes	Medicines for leprosy should be used in accordance with recommendations in WHO guidelines. Medicines used in the treatment of leprosy should never be used except in combination. Combination therapy is essential to prevent the emergence of drug resistance. Colour-coded blister packs (MDT blister packs) containing standard two-medicine (paucibacillary leprosy) or three-medicine (multibacillary leprosy) combination for adult and childhood leprosy should be used. MDT blister packs can be supplied free of charge through WHO.
Formulations	**Oral > Solid:** 100 mg tablet ; 50 mg tablet ; 25 mg tablet
EML status history	First added in 1977 (TRS 615) Changed in 1982 (TRS 685) Changed in 1997 (TRS 882) Changed in 2003 (TRS 920) Changed in 2007 (TRS 950) 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	Dapsone
DrugBank	Dapsone

Summary of evidence and Expert Committee recommendations

Addition of a note stating medicines for leprosy should be used in accordance with recommendations in WHO guidelines.