

## [Rifampicin](#)

Essential medicine status

Section:

[6. Anti-infective medicines 6.2. Antibacterials 6.2.4. Antileprosy medicines](#)

ATC codes: [J04AB02](#)

EMLc

Indication

Leprosy ICD11 code: [1B50.Z](#)

INN

Rifampicin

Medicine type

Chemical agent

Antibiotic groups

[WATCH](#)

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 > Liquid:** 20 mg per mL (EMLc)

**Oral > Solid:** 150 mg ; 300 mg

EML status history

First added in 1977 ([TRS 615](#))

Changed in 1982 ([TRS 685](#))

Changed in 2003 ([TRS 920](#))

Changed in 2007 ([TRS 950](#))

Changed in 2023 ([TRS 1049](#))

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

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