

## [Activated charcoal](#)

Essential medicine status

Section:

[4. Antidotes and other substances used in poisonings 4.1. Antidotes and other substances used in poisonings > Non-specific](#)

ATC codes: [A07BA01](#)

EMLc

Indication

Unspecified injury, poisoning or certain other consequences of external causes ICD11 code: [NF2Z](#)

Medicine type

Chemical agent

List type

Core

Additional notes

Alternative formulations of activated charcoal may be used if granules are not available.

Formulations

**Oral > Liquid:** 50 mg granules for oral suspension

EML status history

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

Changed in 1979 ([TRS 641](#))

Changed in 1987 ([TRS 770](#))

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

[Activated charcoal](#)

DrugBank

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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 changes to the listing of activated charcoal on the EML and EMLc, as follows: - addition of activated charcoal granules for oral suspension (50 mg) to replace the non-specific 'powder' formulation to provide more explicit formulation characteristics to facilitate procurement. - addition of a footnote stating that alternative formats may be used in an emergency if the granules for oral suspension are not available.