Activated charcoal

Section: 4. Antidotes and other substances used in poisonings > 4.1. Antidotes and other substances used in poisonings > Non-specific

EMLc | ATC codes: A07BA01

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	Activated charcoal

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.