



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 (EML) (EMLc)		
Formulations	Oral > Other: powder		
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)		
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

Activated charcoal was included on the first EMLc in 2007 as a non-specific antidote for poisoning. The EMLc Subcommittee noted that accidental poisoning with a variety of substances is a significant cause of morbidity and mortality in children in developing countries, particularly, for example, due to ingestion of unsafely stored pesticides. Activated charcoal as a non-specific antidote was identified as essential for children although was not licensed in the sample of markets assessed. However, the Subcommittee considered that there was sufficient experience in the use of activated charcoal in children to endorse it as essential.

