Cefalexin

**Section:** 6. Anti-infective medicines > 6.2. Antibacterials > 6.2.1. Access group antibiotics

### Indication
Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease with acute exacerbation

### INN
Cefalexin

### Medicine type
Chemical agent

### Antibiotic groups
- ACCESS

### List type
Core

### Formulations
- Oral > Liquid: 125 mg per 5 mL (anhydrous) powder for oral liquid; 250 mg per 5 mL (anhydrous) powder for oral liquid
- Oral > Solid: 250 mg (as monohydrate); 500 mg (as monohydrate)

### EML status history
- First added in 2017 (TRS 1006)
- Changed in 2021 (TRS 1035)

### Sex
All

### Age
Adolescents and adults

### Therapeutic alternatives
The recommendation is for this specific medicine

### Patent information
- Patents have expired in most jurisdictions
- Read more about patents.

### Wikipedia
Cefalexin

### DrugBank
Cefalexin (Cephalexin)

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**Expert Committee recommendation**

The Expert Committee recommended inclusion of a new, higher strength formulation of cefalexin solid oral dosage form on the core list of the EML for the treatment of exacerbations of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. The Committee noted that the proposed strength formulation is higher than those currently included on the Model List, and is appropriate and aligned to meet recommended doses for treatment of adults, with the advantages of a reduced pill burden.

**Summary of evidence**

Most adult patients diagnosed with exacerbations of COPD can be successfully treated with cephalexin 500 mg every 12 hours for 5 days. The higher strength formulation will allow for a reduced pill burden to complete a course of treatment compared to the currently listed 250 mg strength formulation, and should facilitate adherence to treatment.

**EML recommendations: Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease with acute exacerbation**

**First choice**
- amoxicillin
- amoxicillin + clavulanic acid

**Second choice**
- doxycycline
- cefalexin