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.