

## [Cefalexin](#)

Essential medicine status

Section:

[6. Anti-infective medicines](#) [6.2. Antibacterials](#) [6.2.1. Access group antibiotics](#)

ATC codes: [J01DB01](#)

EMLc

Indication

Acute pharyngitis ICD11 code: [CA02](#)

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)

**Oral > Solid > dispersible tablet:** 125 mg (EMLc) ; 250 mg (EMLc)

EML status history

First added in 2017 ([TRS 1006](#))

Changed in 2021 ([TRS 1035](#))

Changed in 2023 ([TRS 1049](#))

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

[Cefalexin](#)

DrugBank

[Cefalexin \(Cephalexin\)](#)

Expert Committee recommendation

Following the review of the age-appropriateness of formulations on the EMLc, the Expert Committee recommended: - the addition of new formulations of amoxicillin (dispersible, scored tablet, 250 mg and 500 mg) to the EMLc. - the addition of new formulations of cefalexin (dispersible tablet 125 mg and 250 mg) to the EMLc. - the addition of a new strength formulation of clarithromycin (solid oral dosage form 250 mg) to the EMLc. - the deletion of clarithromycin 500 mg solid oral dosage form from the EMLc.

EML recommendations: Acute pharyngitis

First choice

Second choice

Watchful waiting, symptom relief and no antibiotic treatment should be considered as the first-line treatment option.

First choice

Second choice

First choice

[phenoxymethylpenicillin](#)

[amoxicillin](#)

Second choice

[cefalexin](#)

[clarithromycin](#)