### Cefalexin

**Indication**: Bacterial cellulitis, erysipelas or lymphangitis  
**ICD11 code**: 1C00

**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) (EMLc)
- 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)

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**Expert Committee recommendation**

The Expert Committee recommended the inclusion of a new strength, child-friendly dispersible tablet formulation of amoxicillin + clavulanic acid (200 mg + 28.5 mg) as an Access group antibiotic on the core list of the EMLc for treatment of bacterial infections in children – specifically those infections for which amoxicillin + clavulanic acid is already recommended on the EMLc. The Committee noted that the 7:1 ratio of amoxicillin to clavulanic acid is associated with similar efficacy to the 4:1 ratio but has a reduced frequency of gastrointestinal adverse effects. The Committee endorsed the importance of age-appropriate formulations to better meet the dosing needs of children. Following the review of the age-appropriateness of formulations on the EMLc, the Expert Committee recommended:
- The addition of a new formulation of amoxicillin + clavulanic acid (dispersible tablet 250 mg + 62.5 mg) to the EMLc.
- The addition of new formulations of cefalexin (dispersible tablet 125 mg and 250 mg) to the EMLc.
- The addition of new strength formulations of cloxacillin (capsule 250 mg, powder for injection 250 mg (as sodium) and powder for oral liquid 250 mg/5 mL (as sodium) on the EMLc.

**EML recommendations**: Bacterial cellulitis, erysipelas or lymphangitis

**First choice**

**Second choice**
cefalexin

cloxacillin

amoxicillin + clavulanic acid