Azithromycin

Section: 6. Anti-infective medicines > 6.2. Antibacterials > 6.2.2. Watch group antibiotics

EMLc | ATC codes: J01FA10

Indication	Infectious gastroenteritis or colitis without specification of infectious agent ICD11 code: 1A40.Z
INN	Azithromycin
Medicine type	Chemical agent
Antibiotic groups	WATCH
List type	Core
Formulations	**Oral > Liquid:** 200 mg per 5 mL (anhydrous) powder for oral liquid (EMLc) **Oral > Solid > dosage form:** 250 mg (anhydrous) ; 500 mg (anhydrous)
EML status history	First added in 2017 (TRS 1006) 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	Azithromycin
DrugBank	Azithromycin

Expert Committee recommendation

In consideration of the review of the age appropriateness of formulations of medicines on the EMLc, and the comparison report of the EML versus EMLc, the Expert Committee recommended changes to the EMLc for addition of new, age-appropriate formulations and strengths of existing essential medicines, deletion of unavailable or age-inappropriate formulations and strengths, and other listing modifications as proposed in the application. The Committee also endorsed the proposals for further review of the public health relevance and evidence for specific medicines for use in children for potential future consideration for inclusion on the EMLc. The Committee noted and welcomed the ongoing review being coordinated by the Secretariat for the remaining sections of the EMLc for consideration by the 2025 Expert Committee. As a result of the review of the age-appropriateness of formulations on the EMLc, the Expert Committee recommended: - replacing the oral liquid formulation of azithromycin (200 mg/5 mL) with powder for oral liquid 200 mg/5 mL on the EML and EMLc. - the addition of a new strength formulation of ceftriaxone (powder for injection: 500 mg (as sodium) in vial) to the EML and EMLc. - the addition of a new strength formulation of ciprofloxacin (solid oral dosage form 100 mg (as hydrochloride)) to the EMLc. - the addition of a new strength formulation of sulfamethoxazole + trimethoprim (dispersible tablet 100 mg + 20 mg) on the EMLc.

EML recommendations: Infectious gastroenteritis or colitis without specification of infectious agent

First choice	Second choice
ciprofloxacin	cefixime
	azithromycin
	sulfamethoxazole + trimethoprim
	ceftriaxone