

[Phenobarbital](#)

Essential medicine status

Section:

[5. Medicines for neurological disorders](#) [5.1. Medicines for central nervous system disorders](#) [5.1.1. Antiseizure medicines](#)

ATC codes: [N03AA02](#)

EMLc

Indication

Epilepsy or seizures ICD11 code: [8A6Z](#)

INN

Phenobarbital

Medicine type

Chemical agent

List type

Core

Formulations

Oral > Liquid: 15 mg per 5 mL

Oral > Solid > tablet: 15 mg ; 30 mg ; 60 mg ; 100 mg

EML status history

First added in 1977 ([TRS 615](#))

Changed in 1979 ([TRS 641](#))

Changed in 1987 ([TRS 770](#))

Changed in 2007 ([TRS 950](#))

Changed in 2025 ([TRS 1064](#))

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

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DrugBank

[Phenobarbital](#)

Summary of evidence and Expert Committee recommendations

Following the review of the age-appropriateness of formulations on the EMLc, the Expert Committee recommended: - to replace the strength range for phenobarbital tablets with specific strengths of 15 mg, 30 mg, 60 mg, 100 mg on the EML and EMLc.