### Cefotaxime

**Indication**
- Bacterial meningitis

**INN**
- Cefotaxime

**Medicine type**
- Chemical agent

**Antibiotic groups**
- WATCH

**List type**
- Core (EML)
- Core (EMLc)

**Additional notes**
- 3rd generation cephalosporin of choice for use in hospitalized neonates.

**Formulations**
- Parenteral > General injections > unspecified: 250 mg in vial powder for injection (as sodium salt); 500 mg in vial powder for injection (as sodium salt); 1 g in vial powder for injection (as sodium salt); 2 g in vial powder for injection (as sodium salt)

**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**
- Cefotaxime

**DrugBank**
- Cefotaxime

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**Expert Committee recommendation**

Following the review of the age-appropriateness of formulations on the EMLc, the Expert Committee recommended:
- the addition of new strength formulations of cefotaxime (powder for injection: 500 mg; 1 g; 2 g (as sodium) in vial) to 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 new formulations of amoxicillin (dispersible, scored tablet, 250 mg and 500 mg) to the EMLc.
- the deletion of oral formulations of chloramphenicol (capsule 250 mg and oral liquid 150 mg/5 mL (as palmitate)) from the EML and EMLc.

**EML recommendations:** Bacterial meningitis
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Drug</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>cefotaxime</td>
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<tr>
<td>ceftriaxone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ampicillin</td>
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<tr>
<td>benzylpenicillin</td>
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<td>amoxicillin</td>
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<td>chloramphenicol</td>
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