### Cefotaxime

**Indication:** Bacterial meningitis  
**INN:** Cefotaxime  
**Medicine type:** Chemical agent  
**Antibiotic groups:** WATCH  
**List type:** Core  
**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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First choice</th>
<th>Second choice</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cefotaxime</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cefotaxime</td>
<td>Ampicillin</td>
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<td>Ceftriaxone</td>
<td>Benzylpenicillin</td>
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<td>Chloramphenicol</td>
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<td>Amoxicillin</td>
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