

[Cefotaxime](#)

Essential medicine status

Section:

[6. Anti-infective medicines](#) [6.2. Antibacterials](#) [6.2.2. Watch group antibiotics](#)

ATC codes: [J01DD01](#)

EMLc

Indication

Bacterial meningitis ICD11 code: [8E71.0Z](#)

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](#)

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

First choice

Second choice

First choice

[cefotaxime](#)

[ceftriaxone](#)

[cefotaxime](#)

[ceftriaxone](#)

Second choice

[ampicillin](#)

[benzylpenicillin](#)

[amoxicillin](#)

[chloramphenicol](#)

[amoxicillin](#)

[ampicillin](#)

[benzylpenicillin](#)

[chloramphenicol](#)