





		EMLc	ATC codes: <a href="#">J01DD01</a>
Indication	Bacterial meningitis	ICD11 code: <a href="#">8E71.0Z</a>	
INN	Cefotaxime		
Medicine type	Chemical agent		
Antibiotic groups	 WATCH		
List type	Core (EML) (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 ( <a href="#">TRS 1006</a> ) Changed in 2023 ( <a href="#">TRS 1049</a> )		
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 <a href="#">about patents</a> . 		
Wikipedia	<a href="#">Cefotaxime</a> 		
DrugBank	<a href="#">Cefotaxime</a> 		

### 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**

cefotaxime

ampicillin

ceftriaxone

benzylpenicillin

amoxicillin

chloramphenicol

