

[Phenytoin](#)

Essential medicine status

Section:

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

ATC codes: [N03AB02](#)

EMLc

Indication

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

INN

Phenytoin

Medicine type

Chemical agent

List type

Core

Formulations

Oral > Liquid: 30 mg per 5 mL (phenytoin)

Parenteral > General injections > unspecified: 50 mg per mL in vial (phenytoin sodium)

Oral > Solid > tablet: 50 mg (phenytoin) (chewable)

Oral > Solid > dosage form: 25 mg (phenytoin sodium) ; 50 mg (phenytoin sodium) ; 100 mg (phenytoin sodium)

EML status history

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

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

Changed in 1993 ([TRS 850](#))

Changed in 2007 ([TRS 946](#))

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

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

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DrugBank

[Phenytoin](#)

Summary of evidence and Expert Committee recommendations

Following the review of the age-appropriateness of formulations on the EMLc, the Expert Committee recommended: - deletion of phenytoin oral liquid 25 mg/5 mL (and associated note) from the EML and EMLc - the salt or free acid form of phenytoin be specified for each formulation type.