Clarithromycin

Essential medicine status ✓

Section: 6. Anti-infective medicines > 6.2. Antibacterials > 6.2.2. Watch group antibiotics

EMLc | ATC codes: J01FA09

Indication	Acute pharyngitis ICD11 code: CA02
INN	Clarithromycin
Medicine type	Chemical agent
Antibiotic groups	W WATCH
List type	Core (EML) (EMLc)
Additional notes	The square box applies only to the listing of clarithromycin on the EMLc as second choice treatment for pharyngitis in children.
Formulations	Oral > Liquid: 125 mg per 5 mL powder for oral liquid ; 250 mg per 5 mL powder for oral liquid Parenteral > General injections > unspecified: 500 mg in vial powder for injection Oral > Solid > dosage form: 500 mg (EML) ; 250 mg (EMLc)
EML status history	First added in 2017 (TRS 1006) Changed in 2021 (TRS 1035) Changed in 2023 (TRS 1049)
Sex	All
Age	Also recommended for children
Therapeutic alternatives	erythromycin (ATC codes: J01FA01)
Patent information	Patents have expired in most jurisdictions Read more about patents.
Wikipedia	Clarithromycin
DrugBank	Clarithromycin

Expert Committee recommendation

Following the review of the age-appropriateness of formulations on the EMLc, the Expert Committee recommended: - the addition of new formulations of amoxicillin (dispersible, scored tablet, 250 mg and 500 mg) to the EMLc. - the addition of new formulations of cefalexin (dispersible tablet 125 mg and 250 mg) to the EMLc. - the addition of a new strength formulation of clarithromycin (solid oral dosage form 250 mg) to the EMLc. - the deletion of clarithromycin 500 mg solid oral dosage form from the EMLc.

EML recommendations: Acute pharyngitis

First choice	Second choice

WATCHFUL WAITING, SYMPTOM RELIEF AND NO ANTIBIOTIC TREATMENT SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AS THE FIRST-LINE TREATMENT OPTION.

phenoxymethylpenicillin

cefalexin

amoxicillin

clarithromycin

