





EMLc

ATC codes: [J01DD04](#)

Indication	Bacterial meningitis ICD11 code: 8E71.0Z
INN	Ceftriaxone
Medicine type	Chemical agent
Antibiotic groups	 WATCH
List type	Core (EML) (EMLc)
Additional notes	Do not administer with calcium and avoid in infants with hyperbilirubinaemia.
Formulations	Parenteral > General injections > unspecified: 250 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) ; 500 mg in vial powder for injection (as sodium salt)
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
Age restriction	> 41 weeks corrected gestational age
Therapeutic alternatives	The recommendation is for this specific medicine
Patent information	Patents have expired in most jurisdictions Read more about patents . 
Wikipedia	Ceftriaxone 
DrugBank	Ceftriaxone 

Expert Committee recommendation

In consideration of the review of the age appropriateness of formulations of medicines on the EMLc, and the comparison report of the EML versus EMLc, the Expert Committee recommended changes to the EMLc for addition of new, age-appropriate formulations and strengths of existing essential medicines, deletion of unavailable or age-inappropriate formulations and strengths, and other listing modifications as proposed in the application. The Committee also endorsed the proposals for further review of the public health relevance and evidence for specific medicines for use in children for potential future consideration for inclusion on the EMLc. The Committee noted and welcomed the ongoing review being coordinated by the Secretariat for the remaining sections of the EMLc for consideration by the 2025 Expert Committee. As a result of the review of the age-appropriateness of formulations on the EMLc, for the indication of bacterial meningitis, the Expert Committee recommended: - 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. - 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.

EML recommendations: **Bacterial meningitis**

First choice

cefotaxime

ceftriaxone

Second choice

ampicillin

benzylpenicillin

amoxicillin

chloramphenicol

