### Indication
- Other specified pneumonia

### 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 ([TRS 1006](https://www.who.int/medicines/ Accessed 2023-04-12))
- Changed in 2023 ([TRS 1049](https://www.who.int/medicines/ Accessed 2023-04-12))

### 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](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cefotaxime)

### DrugBank
- [Cefotaxime](https://www.drugbank.ca/drugs/DB00077)

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**Expert Committee recommendation**

The Expert Committee recommended the inclusion of a new strength, child-friendly dispersible tablet formulation of amoxicillin + clavulanic acid (200 mg + 28.5 mg) as an Access group antibiotic on the core list of the EMLc for treatment of bacterial infections in children – specifically those infections for which amoxicillin + clavulanic acid is already recommended on the EMLc. The Committee noted that the 7:1 ratio of amoxicillin to clavulanic acid is associated with similar efficacy to the 4:1 ratio but has a reduced frequency of gastrointestinal adverse effects. The Committee endorsed the importance of age-appropriate formulations to better meet the dosing needs of children. Following the review of the age-appropriateness of formulations on the EMLc, the Expert Committee recommended:
- the addition of a new formulation of amoxicillin + clavulanic acid (dispersible tablet 250 mg + 62.5 mg) to the 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: Other specified pneumonia**

**First choice**

**Second choice**

**HOSPITAL-ACQUIRED PNEUMONIA**
piperacillin + tazobactam
amoxicillin + clavulanic acid
cefotaxime
ceftriaxone