

[Cefotaxime](#)

Essential medicine status

Section:

[6. Anti-infective medicines 6.2. Antibacterials 6.2.2. Watch group antibiotics](#)

ATC codes: [J01DD01](#)

EMLc

Indication

Other specified pneumonia ICD11 code: [CA40.Y](#)

INN

Cefotaxime

Medicine type

Chemical agent

Antibiotic groups

[WATCH](#)

List type

Core

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](#))

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

[Cefotaxime](#)

DrugBank

[Cefotaxime](#)

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

First choice

[piperacillin + tazobactam](#)

[amoxicillin + clavulanic acid](#)

[cefotaxime](#)

[ceftriaxone](#)

Second choice