




EMLc

ATC codes: J01BA01

Indication	Bacterial meningitis ICD11 code: 8E71.0Z
INN	Chloramphenicol
Medicine type	Chemical agent
Antibiotic groups	A ACCESS
List type	Core (EML) (EMLc)
Additional notes	Oily suspension for injection formulation is only for the presumptive treatment of epidemic meningitis in children older than 2 years and in adults.
Formulations	Parenteral > General injections > IV: 1 g in vial powder for injection (sodium succinate) Parenteral > General injections > IM: 500 mg in 2 mL ampoule oily suspension for injection
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	Chloramphenicol 
DrugBank	Chloramphenicol 

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

Second choice

cefotaxime

ampicillin

ceftriaxone

benzylpenicillin

amoxicillin

chloramphenicol

