

[Bupivacaine](#)

Essential medicine status

Section:

[1. Anaesthetics, preoperative medicines and medical gases](#) [1.2. Local anaesthetics](#)

ATC codes: [N01BB01](#)

EMLc

Indication

Local anaesthetics ICD11 code: [XM7Y85](#)

INN

Bupivacaine

Medicine type

Chemical agent

List type

Core

Formulations

Parenteral > Locoregional injections > Spinal anaesthesia: 0.5% in 4 mL ampoule (hydrochloride) + 8% glucose solution

Parenteral > General injections > unspecified: 0.25% (hydrochloride) ; 0.5% (hydrochloride)

EML status history

First added in 1977 ([TRS 615](#))

Changed in 2007 ([TRS 950](#))

Changed in 2021 ([TRS 1035](#))

Changed in 2025 ([TRS 1064](#))

Sex

All

Age

Also recommended for children

Therapeutic alternatives

Medicines within the same pharmacological class can be used

Therapeutic alternatives limitations

Therapeutic alternatives to be reviewed (2023)

Therapeutic alternatives limitations for EMLc

Therapeutic alternatives to be reviewed (2023)

Patent information

Patents have expired in most jurisdictions

Read more [about patents](#).

Wikipedia

[Bupivacaine](#)

DrugBank

[Bupivacaine](#)

Summary of evidence and Expert Committee recommendations

Following the review of the age-appropriateness of formulations on the EMLc, the Expert Committee recommended: - to remove specification of container type for bupivacaine injection. - to modify the formulation descriptions of bupivacaine injection for spinal anaesthesia to better describe the available dosage forms.