Aciclovir

Essential medicine status

Section: 6. Anti-infective medicines > 6.4. Antiviral medicines > 6.4.1. Antiherpes medicines

EMLc | ATC codes: J05AB01

Indication	Herpes simplex infections ICD11 code: 1F00.Z
INN	Aciclovir
Medicine type	Chemical agent
List type	Core
Additional notes	The square box applies only to the listing of oral aciclovir on the EML.
Formulations	**Parenteral > General injections > IV:** 250 mg in vial powder for solution for infusion (as sodium dihydrate) ; 25 mg per mL in vial solution for infusion (as sodium) **Oral > Liquid:** 200 mg per 5 mL (EMLc) **Oral > Solid:** 200 mg tablet
EML status history	First added in 1997 (TRS 882) Changed in 2003 (TRS 920) 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
Patent information	Patents have expired in most jurisdictions Read more about patents.
Wikipedia	Aciclovir
DrugBank	Aciclovir

Summary of evidence and Expert Committee recommendations

Following the review of the age-appropriateness of formulations of essential medicines for children, the Expert Committee recommended the addition of aciclovir solution for infusion 25 mg/mL, and changes to the description of aciclovir powder for injection to better reflect the product characteristics. The changes apply to the EML and EMLc.