

Essential Medication List - Summary

Jul-2026

Grade 1a - Essential - no real alternative (anaes/crit care)

Medication name		Essential (WHO)	Necessary (FDA)	Supply risk	Essential (UK-NEADL)	TGA	Priority indication	Availability
Dantrolene (IV)	Malignant hyperthermia treatment	✓	✓	✓	✓	□	✓	A&NZ
Fentanyl	Analgesics - opioid	✓	□	✓	✓	□	✓	A&NZ
Flumazenil	Benzodiazepine antagonists	✓	□	□	✓	□	✓	A&NZ
Heparin	Anticoagulants	✓	□	□	□	□	✓	A&NZ
Ketamine	Anaesthetics - intravenous	✓	✓	✓	✓	□	✓	A&NZ
Lipid emulsion (Intralipid 20%)	Local anaesthetic toxicity treatment	✓	✓	✓	✓	□	✓	A&NZ
Noradrenaline (norepinephrine)	Vasopressor - sympathomimetic	✓	□	✓	✓	✓	✓	A&NZ
Propofol (1%)	Anaesthetics - intravenous	✓	□	✓	✓	□	✓	A&NZ
Protamine	Anticoagulant reversal	✓	□	□	□	□	✓	A&NZ

Grade 1b - Essential - no real alternative (use widespread)

Medication name		Essential (WHO)	Necessary (FDA)	Supply risk	Essential (UK-NEADL)	TGA	Priority indication	Availability
Adrenaline (epinephrine)	Vasopressor inotropes	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A&NZ
Air (medical gas supply)	Medical Gases	✓	✓	□	✓	□	✓	A&NZ
Atropine	Anticholinergic - Antimuscarinic dru	✓	□	□	✓	□	✓	A&NZ
Hydrocortisone (IV)	Steroid	✓	□	□	□	□	✓	A&NZ
Insulin	Hypoglycaemic agents	✓	□	□	□	□	✓	A&NZ
Magnesium sulphate (IV)	Membrane stabiliser	✓	✓	□	✓	✓	✓	A&NZ
Naloxone	Opioid antagonist	✓	□	□	✓	✓	✓	A&NZ
Oxygen	Medical Gases	✓	✓	□	✓	□	✓	A&NZ
Paracetamol	Analgesics - non-opioid	✓	□	□	✓	□	✓	A&NZ

Grade 2 - Essential - compromise with alternatives

Medication name		Essential (WHO)	Necessary (FDA)	Supply risk	Essential (UK-NEADL)	TGA	Priority indication	Availability
Amiodarone (IV)	Antiarrhythmic drugs	✓	□	□	□	□	✓	A&NZ
Atracurium	Neuromuscular blocking drugs - non	✓	□	✓	✓	□	✓	A&NZ
Cisatracurium	Neuromuscular blocking drugs - non	✓	□	✓	□	□	✓	AU only

Dexamethasone (IV)	Anti-emetic drugs	☒	☐	☐	☒	☐	☒	A&NZ
Dexamethasone (IV)	Steroid	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☒	A&NZ
Dexmedetomidine	Alpha-2 agonists	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	A&NZ
Ergometrine	Uterine stimulants	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	A&NZ
Glyceryl trinitrate (GTN)	Antihypertensive	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	A&NZ
Hydralazine (IV)	Antihypertensive	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	A&NZ
Isoprenaline	Chronotrope	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	A&NZ
Lidocaine	Anaesthetics - local - short acting	☒	☐	☐	☒	☐	☒	A&NZ
Midazolam	Sedatives - intravenous	☒	☐	☐	☒	☐	☒	A&NZ
Neostigmine	Neuromuscular blockade reversal dr	☒	☐	☐	☒	☐	☒	A&NZ
Oxytocin	Uterine stimulants	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	A&NZ
Rocuronium	Neuromuscular blocking drugs - non	☒	☐	☒	☒	☐	☒	A&NZ
Ropivacaine (0.75-1.0%)	Anaesthetics - local - long acting	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☒	A&NZ
Salbutamol	Bronchodilators	☒	☐	☐	☐	☒	☒	A&NZ
Sevoflurane	Anaesthetics - inhalational	☒	☐	☐	☒	☐	☒	A&NZ
Suxamethonium	Neuromuscular blocking drugs - dep	☒	☐	☒	☒	☐	☒	A&NZ

Grade 3 - Essential class - preferred but suitable alternatives

Medication name		Essential (WHO)	Necessary (FDA)	Supply risk	Essential (UK-NEADL)	TGA	Priority indication	Availability
Bupivacaine	Anaesthetics - local - long acting	☒	☐	☐	☒	☐	☒	A&NZ
Ephedrine	Vasopressor - sympathomimetic	☒	☐	☐	☒	☐	☒	A&NZ
Glycopyrrolate	Anticholinergic - Antimuscarinic dru	☒	☐	☐	☒	☐	☒	A&NZ
Labetalol (IV)	Antihypertensive	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	A&NZ
Metaraminol	Vasopressor - sympathomimetic	☒	☐	☐	☒	☐	☒	A&NZ
Metoprolol (IV)	Beta-blocking drugs	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	A&NZ
Morphine	Analgesics - opioid	☒	☐	☒	☒	☐	☒	A&NZ
Ondansetron	Anti-emetic drugs	☒	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	A&NZ
Oxycodone	Analgesics - opioid	☒	☐	☒	☒	☐	☒	A&NZ
Parecoxib (and other Coxibs)	Analgesics - non-opioid	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	
Phenylephrine	Vasopressor - sympathomimetic	☒	☐	☐	☒	☐	☒	A&NZ

Sugammadex	Neuromuscular blockade reversal dr	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	A&NZ
Thiopentone (thiopental)	Anaesthetics - intravenous	☒	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	A&NZ

Grade **4** - Essential class - all alternatives largely equal

Medication name		Essential (WHO)	Necessary (FDA)	Supply risk	Essential (UK-NEADL)	TGA	Priority indication	Availability
Diazepam (IV)	Sedatives - intravenous	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	A&NZ
Etomidate	Anaesthetics - intravenous	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	NZ only
Ibuprofen (and other NSAIDs)	Analgesics - non-opioid	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	A&NZ
Vasopressin	Vasopressor - non-sympathomimetic	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	A&NZ