

Essential Medication List - Summary

Jun-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 drug	☒	☐	☐	☒	☐	☒	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 drug	☒	☐	☐	☒	☐	☒	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

ANZCA wishes to acknowledge the permission granted by the Association of Anaesthetists (UK) to adapt the National Essential Anaesthesia Drugs List (NEADL) (2021) for the purposes of developing the Essential Medication List (2026).

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