

## Essential Drugs – Suggestions for Review

Questions have been raised on the following drugs regarding efficacy, safety or whether the drug is truly essential. There is a need to decide which drugs or sections should be reviewed as a priority.

### Note:

eff – questions about efficacy  
saf – questions about safety  
ess – doubts about whether the drug (or class) is essential  
fdc - fixed dose combination drugs

The miscellaneous section below contains entities, which although not flagged on the basis of efficacy, safety or as being essential, are not really drugs for systemic or local use.

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### Anaesthesia

chloral hydrate (saf)  
ephedrine (eff)  
ether (saf)

### Plasma volume expansion

dextran 70 (eff)  
polygeline (eff)

### Poisonings

ipecacuanha (eff + saf)

### Cardiovascular Disorders

methyl dopa (eff + saf)  
procainamide (eff + saf)  
reserpine (eff + saf)  
verapamil (eff)

### Respiratory Tract disorders

aminophylline (eff + saf)  
dextromethorphan (eff)  
theophylline (eff + saf)

### Gastrointestinal disorders

aluminium hydroxide (ess)

### Psychiatric disorders

clomipramine (eff OCD)

### Migraine

propranolol (ess)

### Malignant disorders (ess-all)

asparaginase  
bleomycin  
calcium folinate (ess)  
chlorambucil  
chlormethine  
cyclosporin  
cisplatin  
cytarabine  
dacarbazine  
dactinomycin  
daunorubicin  
doxorubicin  
etoposide  
fluorouracil  
mercaptopurine  
procarbazine  
tamoxifen  
vinblastine  
vincristine

### Blood Disorders

ferrous sulfate + folic acid  
(ess fdc)

### Bacterial and Mycobacterial infections

chloramphenicol (ess-oily)  
cloxacillin (ess cf flucloxacillin)  
rifampicin+isoniazid+pyrazinamide+ethambutol  
(ess fdc)  
spectinomycin (ess)

### Malaria

chloroquine (ess – inj)

### Parasitic infections (excl malaria)

albendazole (eff – mass use)  
amphotericin B (eff for Leishmaniasis)  
ivermectin (saf with albendazole)  
levamisole (ess)  
pyrantel (ess chewable tab)

### Pain, Fever, Inflammation

codeine (eff)

### Labour and premature labour

ergometrine (eff-tablets)  
salbutamol (eff)

### Hormone disorders & contraceptions

insulin (? Human)

### Skin Disease (topical applications)

methylrosanilinium (ess)  
potassium iodide (eff and antifungal)  
selenium sulfide (ess)

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□ **Miscellaneous** – *Should these be on the list at all?*

amidotrizoate

barium sulfate

copper containing devide

condoms + nonoxil

diaphragms + nonoxinal

fuorescein

iohexol

iopanoic acid

meglumine

iotroxate

propyl iodine

tropicamide

sun protection agent – topical

diethyltoluamide (insect repellent)

oxygen