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**National Antimicrobial Utilisation
Surveillance Program
(NAUSP)**

**Antimicrobial agents
included in NAUSP
reporting**

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Introduction

The antimicrobial agents included in the National Antimicrobial Utilisation Surveillance Program (NAUSP) that are currently used in Australian hospitals are displayed in the [NAUSP Antimicrobial Agent spreadsheet](#), arranged under their anatomical main group assigned by the World Health Organization (WHO).¹⁻³ For each agent the corresponding anatomical therapeutic chemical (ATC) classification (pharmacological subgroup and chemical subgroup) and WHO defined daily doses (DDD) are displayed.¹ The ATC is the internationally recognised and WHO endorsed drug classification system. The DDD is “*the assumed average maintenance dose per day for a drug used for its main indication in adults*”.¹ DDDs are displayed in grams, except where indicated.

NAUSP-assigned and interim ATC/DDD

The WHO does not assign DDDs to all products. Where a DDD has not been assigned by the WHO, NAUSP have assigned a DDD for systemic products based on available published Australian literature. These DDDs will be annotated as such. For topical agents where a DDD is not practicable (i.e., there is no standard dose/application of most topical products) and the WHO have not assigned a DDD, the DDD in the [agent list](#) will display ‘na*’. To enable surveillance of topical product use to be extracted from the NAUSP Portal, a DDD of 1g has arbitrarily been assigned to *all* topical products. For more information on extracting topical usage from the Portal, please see the [Fact Sheet on topical rate calculations](#).

In addition, some agents that are included in NAUSP surveillance are yet to have a WHO-assigned ATC code. In these cases, an interim ATC code has been assigned by NAUSP and will be amended as the WHO ATC/DDD Index is updated annually.

Not all the included agents are registered with the Therapeutic Goods Administration for use within Australia. Unregistered antimicrobials used in Australia may be accessed via the Special Access Scheme (SAS).⁴

Defined daily dose of combination products

The WHO has published a specific ATC/DDD resource for combination products.⁵ Defined daily doses for combination products are expressed as unit doses (UD). This metric is not consistent with NAUSP methodology, where grams of antimicrobial are required to calculate DDDs and usage rates. If unit doses were to be adopted, combination products would be excluded from aggregate antimicrobial usage rates.

In place of unit doses, NAUSP has converted the daily unit dose to grams using the typical Australian presentation of the product.

For example, **trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole** has a published unit dose (UD) of 4 UD (=4 tab), when the active ingredients per unit dose (i.e., 1 tablet) is trimethoprim 80mg and sulfamethoxazole 0.4g.⁵

J01EE01	Bactrim, Eusaprim Trimetoprim-sulfa	tab	sulfamethoxazole 0.4 g/ trimethoprim 80 mg	4 UD (=4 tab)
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Adding these components together results in 480mg of active ingredient per tablet. Multiplying 480mg by the unit dose of 4 tablets results in 1.92g. This is the DDD NAUSP have assigned to oral trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole products in the Portal for the purpose of surveillance.

Where combination products include one active, and one inactive component, only the active component is considered.

Where combination products have multiple active antimicrobials and there is no published UD, NAUSP have summed the grams of the active components and used the standard adult dose in Australian literature to derive a DDD.

NAUSP Antimicrobial Agent List

The [NAUSP Antimicrobial Agent List](#) is located on the [Program Documentation](#) page of the NAUSP website.

Note: While every effort will be made to maintain the currency of the [Antimicrobial Agent spreadsheet](#), there may be a lag time between when a new antimicrobial is introduced and its inclusion in the following list.

References

1. World Health Organization. *ATC/DD Index 2024*. 2024 [cited 27 July 2024]. Available from: www.whooc.no/atc_ddd_index/.
2. MIMS Australia, eMIMS. Sydney: MIMS Australia Pty Ltd; 2024. Available from: www.mimsonline.com.au
3. AMH. Australian Medicines Handbook (online). Adelaide: Australian Medicines Handbook Pty Ltd; 2024. Available from: www.amhonline.amh.net.au
4. Therapeutic Goods Administration, *Special Access Scheme* (webpage). Available from: www.tga.gov.au/form/special-access-scheme
5. World Health Organization. *List of DDDs combined products 2024* [cited 27 July 2024]. Available from: https://atcddd.fhi.no/ddd/list_of_ddd_combined_products/

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For more information

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