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# Beta-Lactam Antibiotic

National Cancer Institute

## Source

National Cancer Institute. *Beta-Lactam Antibiotic*. NCI Thesaurus. Code C260.

A compound with a four member amide ring (beta-lactam), where one member is the amide nitrogen and another is the carbonyl carbon, with bactericidal activity. Beta-lactam antibiotics act by disrupting the synthesis of the peptidoglycan layer of the bacterial cell wall.