

**Table 2.2.** WHO classification and antimicrobial classes

| WHO classification                  | Antimicrobial class   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Critically important antimicrobials | Aminoglycosides   |
|                                     | Carbapenems and other penems  |
|                                     | Cephalosporins (third and fourth generation)                            |
|                                     | Cyclic esters   |
|                                     | Fluoro- and other quinolones  |
|                                     | Glycopeptides   |
|                                     | Glycylcyclines  |
|                                     | Lipopeptides  |
|                                     | Macrolides and ketolides  |
|                                     | Monobactams   |
|                                     | Oxazolidinones  |
|                                     | Penicillins (natural, aminopenicillins and antipseudomonal)             |
|                                     | Polymyxins  |
|                                     | Rifamycins  |
|                                     | Drugs used solely to treat tuberculosis or other mycobacterial diseases |
| Highly important antimicrobials     | Amidinopenicillins  |
|                                     | Amphenicols   |
|                                     | Cephalosporins (first and second generation) and cephamycins            |
|                                     | Lincosamides  |
|                                     | Penicillins (antistaphylococcal)  |
|                                     | Pleuromutilins  |
|                                     | Pseudomonic acids   |
|                                     | Riminoferazines   |
|                                     | Steroid antibacterials  |
|                                     | Streptogramins  |
|                                     | Sulfonamides, dihydrofolate reductase inhibitors and combinations       |
|                                     | Sulfones  |
|                                     | Tetracyclines   |
|                                     | Amidinopenicillins  |
|                                     | Amphenicols   |
|                                     | Cephalosporins (first and second generation) and cephamycins            |
|                                     | Lincosamides  |
|                                     | Penicillins (antistaphylococcal)  |
|                                     | Pleuromutilins  |
|                                     | Pseudomonic acids   |
|                                     | Riminoferazines   |
|                                     | Steroid antibacterials  |
|                                     | Streptogramins  |
|                                     | Sulfonamides, dihydrofolate reductase inhibitors and combinations       |
| Sulfones                            |   |
| Important antimicrobials            | Tetracyclines   |
|                                     | Aminocyclitols  |
|                                     | Cyclic polypeptides   |
|                                     | Nitrofurantoin  |
|                                     | Nitroimidazoles   |

Source: From: WHO (2011).