

BENZATHINE PENICILLIN

ben-zah-theen pen-ih-sil-in

What does it do?

Benzathine penicillin is used to treat and prevent bacterial infections.

How is it given?

Benzathine penicillin is given as an injection into a muscle by your health professional.

What if you forget a dose?

If you miss an appointment for your injection, contact your health professional as soon as possible.

Can you take other medicines?

Tell your pharmacist or doctor about all medicines or treatments that you may be taking, including vitamins, herbal products or recreational drugs.

What side effects might you notice?

Side Effects	Recommended action
Symptoms of allergy including: skin rash, itching, swelling, trouble breathing	Tell your doctor immediately
Severe or persistent diarrhoea, abdominal pain	Tell your doctor
Irritation or pain at injection site	Tell your doctor if troublesome

If you notice any other effects, discuss them with your doctor or pharmacist.

Other information:

- Tell your doctor if you have kidney problems, or have ever had an allergic reaction to penicillins or any other medicine.
- Tell your doctor if you are pregnant, planning to become pregnant, or breastfeeding.
- If you are getting *benzathine penicillin* for syphilis, you may get flu-like symptoms (fever, chills, aches and pains) after the first injection as your body reacts to the bacteria dying. This usually passes after a few hours. Rest, drink plenty of fluids and take paracetamol if needed. If it continues to bother you, contact your health professional.