

## 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.