

## BENZATHINE PENICILLIN

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

### What does it do?

*Benzathine penicillin* is an antibiotic used to treat and prevent bacterial infections.

### Before you start

- Tell your doctor if you have kidney problems, or if you are allergic to penicillin antibiotics.
- Tell your doctor if you are pregnant, planning to become pregnant, or breastfeeding.

### How is it given?

*Benzathine penicillin* is given as an injection into a muscle. It is usually given to you by a health professional.

### What if you forget a dose?

Contact your health professional as soon as possible. Usually, the missed dose is given as soon as possible, and treatment continued as directed.

### 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 health professional immediately    |
| Severe or persistent diarrhoea, abdominal pain                                 | Tell your health professional                |
| Irritation or pain at injection site   | Tell your health professional if troublesome |

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

### Other information:

- 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.