

Consumer Medicine Information (CMI) summary

The [full CMI](#) on the next page has more details. If you are worried about using this medicine, speak to your doctor, nurse or pharmacist.

1. Why am I using BENPEN?

BENPEN contains the active ingredient benzylpenicillin sodium. BENPEN is used to treat bacterial infections.

For more information, see Section [1. Why am I using BENPEN?](#) in the full CMI.

2. What should I know before I am given BENPEN?

Do not use if you have ever had an allergic reaction to BENPEN, other penicillins or cephalosporins, or any of the ingredients listed at the end of the CMI.

Talk to your doctor, nurse or pharmacist if you have any other medical conditions, take any other medicines, or are pregnant or plan to become pregnant or are breastfeeding.

For more information, see Section [2. What should I know before I am given BENPEN?](#) in the full CMI.

3. What if I am taking other medicines?

Some medicines may interfere with BENPEN and affect how it works.

A list of these medicines is in Section [3. What if I am taking other medicines?](#) in the full CMI.

4. How is BENPEN given?

- BENPEN is an injection and will be given to you by a doctor or nurse. It can be given as an injection into a muscle or a vein.
- Your doctor will decide on the dose and how long you need to receive BENPEN.

More instructions can be found in Section [4. How is BENPEN given?](#) in the full CMI.

5. What should I know while using BENPEN?

Things you should do	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tell your doctor, nurse or pharmacist immediately if you have signs of an allergic reaction.• Remind any doctor, dentist or pharmacist you visit that you are using BENPEN.• Tell your doctor immediately if you become pregnant while receiving BENPEN.• If your symptoms do not improve in a few days, or if they become worse, tell your doctor immediately.• Tell your doctor, nurse or pharmacist immediately if you develop diarrhoea, even several weeks after you have stopped BENPEN.
Things you should not do	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Do not stop using BENPEN without checking with your doctor.• Do not take any medicines for diarrhoea without first checking with your doctor.
Driving or using machines	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Be careful before you drive or use any machines or tools until you know how BENPEN affects you. In some people it may cause dizziness, drowsiness or tiredness.
Looking after your medicine	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• BENPEN will usually be stored in the pharmacy, doctors' surgery or on the hospital ward.• BENPEN should be stored protected from light in a cool dry place where the temperature stays below 25°C.

For more information, see Section [5. What should I know while using BENPEN?](#) in the full CMI.

6. Are there any side effects?

Tell your doctor, nurse or pharmacist if you notice any of the following and they worry you: you develop itching with swelling or skin rash or difficulty breathing after you have been given BENPEN, as these are symptoms of an allergic reaction; you get severe diarrhoea.

For more information, including what to do if you have any side effects, see Section [6. Are there any side effects?](#) in the full CMI.

BENPEN®

Active ingredient: *benzylpenicillin sodium*

Consumer Medicine Information (CMI)

This leaflet provides important information about using BENPEN. **You should also speak to your doctor, nurse or pharmacist if you would like further information or if you have any concerns or questions about using BENPEN.**

Where to find information in this leaflet:

- [1. Why am I using BENPEN?](#)
- [2. What should I know before I am given BENPEN?](#)
- [3. What if I am taking other medicines?](#)
- [4. How is BENPEN given?](#)
- [5. What should I know while using BENPEN?](#)
- [6. Are there any side effects?](#)
- [7. Product details](#)

1. Why am I using BENPEN?

BENPEN contains the active ingredient benzylpenicillin sodium. BENPEN is an antibiotic that belongs to a group of medicines called penicillins. These antibiotics work by killing the bacteria that are causing your infection.

BENPEN is used to treat infections in different parts of the body caused by bacteria.

BENPEN may also be used to prevent infections before, during and after surgery.

BENPEN will not work against infections caused by viruses, such as colds or the flu.

Your doctor may have prescribed BENPEN for another reason. Ask your doctor why BENPEN has been prescribed for you.

This medicine is available only with a doctor's prescription.

2. What should I know before I am given BENPEN?

Warnings

Do not use BENPEN if:

- you are allergic to benzylpenicillin or other penicillins. Some of the symptoms of an allergic reaction may include skin rash, swelling of the face, lips, tongue or other parts of the body, itching and difficult breathing.
- you have had an allergic reaction to cephalosporin medicines. You may have an increased chance to being allergic to BENPEN if you are allergic to cephalosporins.

Check with your doctor if you:

- have an allergy to BENPEN or any other penicillin or cephalosporin medicines
- have any other medical conditions, including asthma, kidney, or liver disease
- take any medicines for any other condition

During treatment, you may be at risk of developing certain side effects. It is important you understand these risks and how to monitor for them. See additional information under Section [6. Are there any side effects?](#)

Pregnancy and breastfeeding

Check with your doctor if you are pregnant or intend to become pregnant.

Talk to your doctor if you are breastfeeding or intend to breastfeed. Benzylpenicillin passes into breast milk.

Your doctor can discuss with you the risks and benefits involved.

3. What if I am taking other medicines?

Tell your doctor, nurse or pharmacist if you are taking any other medicines, including any medicines, vitamins or supplements that you buy without a prescription from your pharmacy, supermarket or health food shop.

Some medicines may interfere with BENPEN and affect how it works.

These include:

- probenecid
- tetracyclines
- erythromycin
- chloramphenicol

These medicines may affect BENPEN and how well it works. You may need different amounts of your medicine, or you may need to take different medicines.

Some antibiotics may decrease the effectiveness of some birth control pills. Talk to your doctor or pharmacist about the need for an additional method of contraception while taking BENPEN.

Check with your doctor, nurse or pharmacist if you are not sure about what medicines, vitamins or supplements you are taking and if these affect BENPEN.

4. How is BENPEN given?

BENPEN may be given in two ways:

- as a slow injection into a vein

- as a deep injection into a large muscle

BENPEN will be given to you by a doctor or nurse.

How much to use and when to use it

Your doctor will decide what dose and for how long you will receive BENPEN. This depends on your infection and other factors, such as your weight. For most infections, BENPEN is usually given in divided doses throughout the day. Sometimes only a single dose of BENPEN is required for the treatment and prevention of certain infections.

Each BENPEN vial is used for one dose in one patient only. Any remaining contents must be discarded after each dose to reduce microbiological contamination.

If you use too much BENPEN

This is unlikely to happen as BENPEN is administered under the care of a doctor. However, if you are given too much BENPEN, you may experience some of the effects listed under ‘Side Effects’ below. Your doctor has information on how to recognise and treat an overdose. Ask your doctor if you have any concerns. If you think that you have been given too much BENPEN, you may need urgent medical attention.

You should immediately:

- phone the Poisons Information Centre (by calling 13 11 26), or
- contact your doctor, or
- go to the Emergency Department at your nearest hospital.

You should do this even if there are no signs of discomfort or poisoning.

5. What should I know while using BENPEN?

Things you should do

Call your doctor straight away if:

- you develop itching with swelling or skin rash or difficulty breathing after you have been given BENPEN, as these are symptoms of an allergic reaction
- you get severe diarrhoea. Do this even if it occurs several weeks after BENPEN has been stopped. Diarrhoea may mean that you have a serious condition affecting your bowel. You may need urgent medical care. Do not take any diarrhoea medicine without first checking with your doctor
- you get a sore white mouth or tongue after you have been given BENPEN. Also tell your doctor if you get vaginal itching or discharge. This may mean you have a fungal infection called thrush. Sometimes the use of BENPEN allows fungi to grow and the above symptoms to occur. BENPEN does not work against fungi.
- the symptoms of your infection do not improve within a few days, or if they become worse

- you become pregnant during BENPEN treatment.

Remind any doctor, dentist or pharmacist you visit that you are using BENPEN.

If you have any blood or urine tests, tell your doctor you have been given BENPEN. BENPEN may affect the results of some tests.

Things you should not do

- Do not stop BENPEN treatment because you are feeling better, unless advised by your doctor.

If you do not complete the full course prescribed by your doctor, the bacteria causing your infection may not all be killed. These bacteria may continue to grow and multiply so that your infection may not clear completely or it may return.

Driving or using machines

Be careful before you drive or use any machines or tools until you know how BENPEN affects you.

BENPEN generally does not cause any problems with your ability to drive a car or operate machinery. However, as with many other medicines, BENPEN may cause dizziness, drowsiness, and tiredness in some people.

Looking after your medicine

BENPEN will be stored in the pharmacy, doctors’ surgery or on the hospital ward. The powder for injection is kept protected from light in a cool dry place where the temperature stays below 25°C.

Getting rid of any unwanted medicine

Your healthcare professional will be responsible for discarding BENPEN.

6. Are there any side effects?

All medicines can have side effects. If you do experience any side effects, most of them are minor and temporary. However, some side effects may need medical attention.

See the information below and, if you need to, ask your doctor, nurse or pharmacist if you have any further questions about side effects.

Less serious side effects

Less serious side effects	What to do
Gastrointestinal: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • stomach pain • nausea • vomiting • diarrhoea Other: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • oral thrush - white, furry, sore tongue and mouth 	Speak to your doctor, nurse or pharmacist if you have any of these less serious side effects and they worry you.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> vaginal thrush - sore and itchy vagina and/or discharge a mild rash 	
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Serious side effects

Serious side effects	What to do
<p>Signs of a serious allergic reaction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a severe rash wheezing palpitations feeling faint swelling of the face, lips, tongue or other parts of the body <p>After finishing BENPEN treatment, an illness consisting of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> rash swollen glands joint pains fever 	<p>Call your doctor straight away, or go straight to the Emergency Department at your nearest hospital if you notice any of these serious side effects.</p>
<p>Bacterial overgrowth in the bowel:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> severe abdominal cramps or stomach cramps watery and severe diarrhoea, which may also be bloody fever, in combination with one or both of the above <p>BENPEN can change bacteria (which are normally present in the bowel and normally harmless) to multiply and therefore cause the above symptoms. You may need urgent medical attention.</p> <p>Do not take any diarrhoea medicine without first checking with your doctor</p>	<p>Tell your doctor immediately if you notice any of the following side effects, particularly if they occur several weeks after stopping treatment with BENPEN</p>

Tell your doctor, nurse or pharmacist if you notice anything else that may be making you feel unwell.

Other side effects not listed here may occur in some people. These include very rare cases of brain, blood and kidney disease.

Reporting side effects

After you have received medical advice for any side effects you experience, you can report side effects to the Therapeutic Goods Administration online at www.tga.gov.au/reporting-problems. By reporting side effects, you can help provide more information on the safety of this medicine.

Always make sure you speak to your doctor, nurse or pharmacist before you decide to stop taking any of your medicines.

7. Product details

This medicine is only available with a doctor's prescription.

What BENPEN contains

Active ingredient (main ingredient)	Benzylpenicillin sodium
Other ingredients (inactive ingredients)	none

Do not take this medicine if you are allergic to any of these ingredients.

What BENPEN looks like

BENPEN is a white to off- white powder that needs to be dissolved in water before it is injected.

600 mg AUST R 10329

1.2 g AUST R 10326

3 g AUST R 10327

Who distributes BENPEN

Seqirus Pty Ltd

ABN: 26 160 735 035

45 Poplar Road,
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www.cslseqirus.com.au

This leaflet was prepared in November 2025.

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