

PENICILLIN ALLERGY



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Summary for Patients & Carers

Penicillin is a type of antibiotic used to treat many infections. Examples include chest, skin and throat infections. It is often used first because it works well and is usually safe. Common examples of penicillin antibiotics are: Penicillin V, Amoxicillin, Flucloxacillin, Co-amoxiclav and Pivmecillinam.

Side effects

Most reactions to penicillin are side effects, not allergies and do not mean you need to avoid penicillin antibiotics completely.

Common side effects include:

- Mild skin reactions
- Vomiting or loose poo
- Feeling sick, headache, strange taste in the mouth
- Not wanting to eat, feeling bloated

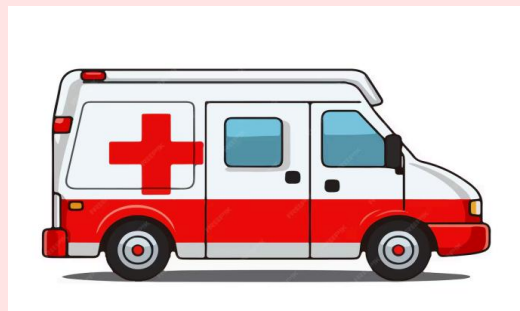


What is a **TRUE** penicillin allergy?

A **TRUE** penicillin allergy can happen straight away (anaphylaxis) or it can happen slowly, after a few hours or days of taking penicillin

Symptoms include:

- A red, swollen, itchy rash that spreads quickly over a wide area
- Breathing problems and wheezing
- Coughing, blocked nose and a tight feeling in the throat & chest
- Swelling around the mouth, lips, tongue, face, neck
- Feeling faint and collapsing



Stop taking the antibiotic and Call 999 for urgent medical help, if any of these symptoms occur.

Make sure that **TRUE allergies are recorded in your medical records. Think about medical alert devices if you have a **TRUE** allergy.**



Wear medical alert jewellery