



[Home](#)

2. Unasyn

Unasyn

Generic name: [ampicillin and sulbactam](#) [*am-pi-SIL-in-and-sul-BAK-tam*]

Drug class: [Penicillins / beta-lactamase inhibitors](#)



[Medically reviewed](#) by Drugs.com on Oct 28, 2024. Written by [Cerner Multum](#).

[Uses](#) [Side effects](#) [Warnings](#) [Before taking](#) [Dosage](#) [Interactions](#)

What is Unasyn?

Unasyn are penicillin [antibiotics](#) that fight bacteria.

Unasyn is a combination medicine used to treat many different types of infections caused by bacteria.

Unasyn may also be used for purposes not listed in this medication guide.

Unasyn side effects

Get emergency medical help if you have **signs of an allergic reaction** (hives, difficult breathing, swelling in your face or throat) **or a severe skin reaction** (fever, [sore throat](#), burning eyes, skin pain, red or purple skin rash with blistering and peeling).

Unasyn may cause serious side effects. Call your doctor at once if you have:

- severe stomach pain, [diarrhea](#) that is watery or bloody (even if it occurs months after your last dose);
- thrush (white patches inside your mouth or throat);
- **heart problems**--fast heartbeats, chest pain or pressure, pain spreading to your jaw or shoulder, nausea, sweating;
- **liver problems**--nausea, upper stomach pain, itching, tired feeling, loss of appetite, dark urine, clay-colored stools, [jaundice](#) (yellowing of the skin or eyes); or
- **signs of a new infection**--fever, [headache](#), tiredness, ear pain or drainage, eye pain or redness, cough, skin rash, sores or pimples with pus, [joint pain](#), ongoing neck or [back pain](#), diarrhea, pain or burning when you urinate.

Common side effects of Unasyn may include:

- diarrhea;
- rash;
- swollen, black, or "hairy" tongue;
- vaginal itching or discharge;

- pain where the medicine was injected.

This is not a complete list of side effects and others may occur. Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

 [Unasyn side effects](#) (more detail)

Related/similar drugs

Nitrofurantoin

Nitrofurantoin is an antibiotic used to treat urinary tract infections. Learn about side effects ...

Reviews & ratings

4.5 / 10

[1,878 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

FEATURED

Omvox

Omvox is used to treat moderate to severe ulcerative colitis or Crohn's disease in adults. This ...

Reviews & ratings

[1 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

Amoxicillin/clavulanate

Amoxicillin and clavulanate potassium is a combination antibiotic used to treat bacterial ...

Reviews & ratings

5.3 / 10

[910 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

Levofloxacin

Levofloxacin is a fluoroquinolone antibiotic used to treat serious bacterial infections and prevent ...

Reviews & ratings

5.1 / 10

[741 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

Augmentin

Augmentin is a prescription antibiotic combining amoxicillin and clavulanate to treat bacterial ...

Reviews & ratings

5.4 / 10

[447 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

Clindamycin

Clindamycin (Cleocin) is used to treat serious infections caused by bacteria. Includes clindamycin ...

Reviews & ratings

5.7 / 10

[806 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

Bactrim

Bactrim (sulfamethoxazole and trimethoprim) is an antibiotic used to treat ear infections, urinary ...

Reviews & ratings

5.4 / 10

[616 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

Dexamethasone

Dexamethasone is used to treat inflammatory conditions such as allergies, skin conditions ...

Reviews & ratings

5.9 / 10

[162 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

Warnings

You should not use Unasyn if you have ever had a severe allergic reaction to any type of penicillin or cephalosporin [antibiotic](#), or if you have had liver problems while using Unasyn.

Before taking this medicine

You should not use this medicine if you are allergic to [ampicillin](#) or sulbactam, or if you have ever had

- a severe allergic reaction to any type of penicillin or cephalosporin antibiotic; or
- liver problems (hepatitis or jaundice) while using Unasyn.

Tell your doctor if you have ever had:

- [liver disease](#);
- [mononucleosis](#) (also called "mono");
- kidney disease;
- an allergy to any medication; or
- any other allergies.

Tell your doctor if you are pregnant or breastfeeding.

Do not give this medicine to a child without medical advice.

How should I use Unasyn?

Follow all directions on your prescription label and read all medication guides or instruction sheets. Use the medicine exactly as directed.

Unasyn is injected into a muscle, or given as an infusion into a vein. A healthcare provider will give your first dose and may teach you how to properly use the medication by yourself.

Unasyn must be mixed with a liquid (diluent) before using it. When using injections by yourself, be sure you understand how to properly mix and store the medicine.

After mixing Unasyn, you will need to use it within a certain number of hours. This will depend on the diluent and how you store the mixture (at cool room temperature, or in a refrigerator).

Read and carefully follow any Instructions for Use provided with your medicine. Ask your doctor or pharmacist if you don't understand all instructions.

Prepare an injection only when you are ready to give it. **Do not use if the medicine has changed colors or has particles in it.** Call your pharmacist for new medicine.

This medicine is usually given every 6 hours for 14 days. **Follow your doctor's dosing instructions very carefully.**

Use this medicine for the full prescribed length of time, even if your symptoms quickly improve. Skipping doses can increase your risk of [infection](#) that is resistant to medication. Unasyn will not treat a [viral infection](#) such as the flu or a [common cold](#).

You may need frequent blood tests to check your liver function.

This medicine can affect the results of certain lab tests for glucose (sugar) in the urine. Tell any doctor who treats you that you are using Unasyn.

Store unmixed Unasyn at room temperature away from moisture and heat.

Use a needle and syringe only once and then place them in a puncture-proof "sharps" container. Follow state or local laws about how to dispose of this container. Keep it out of the reach of children and pets.

 [Detailed Unasyn dosage information](#)

What happens if I miss a dose?

Use the medicine as soon as you can, but skip the missed dose if it is almost time for your next dose. **Do not** use two doses at one time.

What happens if I overdose?

Seek emergency medical attention or call the Poison Help line at 1-800-222-1222.

Overdose may cause seizure (convulsions).

What should I avoid while using Unasyn?

Antibiotic medicines can cause diarrhea, which may be a sign of a new infection. **If you have diarrhea that is watery or bloody, call your doctor before using anti-diarrhea medicine.**

What other drugs will affect Unasyn?

Tell your doctor about all your other medicines, especially:

- [allopurinol](#); or
- [probenecid](#).

This list is not complete. Other drugs may affect Unasyn, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, [vitamins](#), and [herbal products](#). Not all possible [drug interactions](#) are listed here.

 [Unasyn drug interactions](#) (more detail)

Does Unasyn interact with my other drugs?

Enter medications to view a detailed interaction report using our [Drug Interaction Checker](#).

Unasyn

+

Enter a drug name

Add

More about Unasyn (ampicillin / sulbactam)

- [Check interactions](#)
- [Compare alternatives](#)
- [Pricing & coupons](#)
- [Reviews \(2\)](#)
- [Side effects](#)
- [Dosage information](#)
- [During pregnancy](#)
- [Generic availability](#)
- [Drug class: penicillins/beta-lactamase inhibitors](#)
- [En español](#)

Patient resources

- [Unasyn advanced reading](#)

Professional resources

- [Unasyn prescribing information](#)
- [Ampicillin/Sulbactam \(AHFS Monograph\)](#)

Related treatment guides

- [Bacterial Infection](#)
- [Deep Neck Infection](#)
- [Aspiration Pneumonia](#)
- [Bone infection](#)

Further information

Remember, keep this and all other medicines out of the reach of children, never share your medicines with others, and use this medication only for the indication prescribed.

Always consult your healthcare provider to ensure the information displayed on this page applies to your personal circumstances.

Antibiotics 101

List of Common Antibiotics & Types

Antibiotics and Alcohol

Probiotics and Antibiotics


Antibiotics for Strep Throat

Antibiotics for a Tooth Infection

Antibiotics for UTI's

DRUG STATUS

Availability
Rx Prescription only

Pregnancy & Lactation
 Risk data available

CSA Schedule*
N/A Not a controlled drug

Approval History
10+ years FDA approved 1986



User Reviews & Ratings

[Review this drug](#)

Drugs.com Mobile App

Access drug & treatment information, identify pills, check interactions and set up personal medication records.



About

- [About Drugs.com](#)
- [Advertising policy](#)
- [Attribution & citations](#)

Terms & privacy

- [Terms of use](#)
- [Editorial policy](#)
- [Privacy policy](#)

Support

[Help center](#)

[Sitemap](#)

[Contact us](#)



[Subscribe to our newsletter](#) for the latest medication news, new drug approvals and FDA alerts.

Drugs.com provides accurate and independent information on more than 24,000 prescription drugs, over-the-counter medicines and natural products. This material is provided for educational purposes only and is not intended for medical advice, diagnosis or treatment. Data sources include Micromedex (updated 7 Apr 2025), Cerner Multum™ (updated 13 Apr 2025), ASHP (updated 10 Apr 2025) and others.



Ad Choices
ADVERTISEMENT



Copyright © 2000-2025 Drugs.com. All rights reserved.