



[Home](#)

2. Penicillin v potassium

Penicillin V

Generic name: penicillin V [*pen-i-SILL-in*]

Brand names: PC Pen VK, Pen-V

Drug class: [Natural penicillins](#)

Medically reviewed by [Melisa Puckey, BPharm](#). Last updated on May 3, 2024.

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

What is penicillin V?

[Penicillins](#) are a group of antibiotics that fight bacteria and was originally developed from the *Penicillium* fungi. Penicillin V is one type of penicillin antibiotic and is used to treat a wide range of bacterial infections such as ear infections, throat infections, skin infections and preventing rheumatic fever.

It should only be used if the bacterial infection is sensitive to penicillin V.

Penicillin V may also be used for other purposes not listed in this medication guide.

Warnings

Do not use this medication if you are allergic to penicillin V or to any other penicillin antibiotic, such as [amoxicillin](#) ([Amoxil](#)), [ampicillin](#) (Omnipen, Principen), [carbenicillin](#) (Geocillin), [dicloxacillin](#) (Dycil, Dynapen), or [oxacillin](#) (Bactocil).

Before using penicillin V, tell your doctor if you are allergic to cephalosporins such as Ceclor, Ceftin, Duricef, Keflex, and others, or if you have asthma, kidney disease, a bleeding or blood clotting disorder, a history of diarrhea caused by taking antibiotics, or a history of any type of allergy.

Penicillin V can make birth control pills less effective, which may result in pregnancy. Before taking this medicine, tell your doctor if you use birth control pills. Take penicillin V for the entire length of time prescribed by your doctor. Your symptoms may get better before the infection is completely treated. Penicillin V will not treat a viral infection such as the common cold or flu. Do not give this medication to another person, even if they have the same symptoms you do.

Antibiotic medicines can cause diarrhea, which may be a sign of a new infection. If you have diarrhea that is watery or has blood in it, call your doctor. Do not use any medicine to stop the diarrhea unless your doctor has told you to.

Before taking this medicine

Do not use this medication if you are allergic to penicillin V or to any other penicillin antibiotic, such as:

- [amoxicillin](#) (Amoxil, Amoxicot, Biomox, Dispermox, Trimox);
- [ampicillin](#) (Omnipen, Principen);
- [carbenicillin](#) (Geocillin);
- [dicloxacillin](#) (Dycill, Dynapen); or
- [oxacillin](#) (Bactocill).

Before using penicillin V, tell your doctor if you are allergic to any drugs (especially cephalosporins such as Ceclor, Ceftin, Duricef, Keflex, and others), or if you have:

- asthma;
- kidney disease;
- a bleeding or blood clotting disorder;
- a history of diarrhea caused by taking antibiotics; or
- a history of any type of allergy.

If you have any of these conditions, you may need a dose adjustment or special tests to safely take penicillin V.

FDA pregnancy category B. Penicillin V is not expected to be harmful to an unborn baby. Tell your doctor if you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant during treatment. Penicillin V can make birth control pills less effective, which may result in pregnancy. Before taking this medicine, tell your doctor if you use birth control pills. Penicillin V can pass into breast milk and may harm a nursing baby. Do not use this medication without telling your doctor if you are breast-feeding a baby.

 [Penicillin v potassium pregnancy and breastfeeding warnings](#) (more detail)

How should I take penicillin V?

Take penicillin V exactly as it was prescribed for you. Do not take the medication in larger amounts, or take it for longer than recommended by your doctor. Follow the directions on your prescription label.

You may take penicillin V with or without food.

To be sure penicillin V is helping your condition, your blood may need to be tested on a regular basis. Your kidney or liver function may also need to be tested. Do not miss any scheduled visits to your doctor.

Shake the oral suspension (liquid) well just before you measure a dose. To be sure you get the correct dose, measure the liquid with a marked measuring spoon or medicine cup, not with a regular table spoon. If you do not have a dose-measuring device, ask your pharmacist for one.

Take penicillin V for the entire length of time prescribed by your doctor. Your symptoms may get better before the infection is completely treated. Penicillin V will not treat a viral infection such as the common cold or flu. Do not give this medicine to another person, even if they have the same symptoms you do.

Penicillin V can cause you to have unusual results with certain medical tests. Tell any doctor who treats you that you are using penicillin V.

Store penicillin V tablets at room temperature away from moisture, heat, and light. Store liquid penicillin V in a refrigerator

but do not allow it to freeze. Throw away any liquid that has not been used within 14 days after it was mixed at the pharmacy.

 [Detailed Penicillin v potassium dosage information](#)

What happens if I miss a dose?

Take the missed dose as soon as you remember. If it is almost time for your next dose, skip the missed dose and take the medicine at your next regularly scheduled time. Do not take extra medicine to make up the missed dose.

What happens if I overdose?

Seek emergency medical attention if you think you have used too much of this medicine.

Overdose symptoms may include confusion, behavior changes, a severe skin rash, urinating less than usual, or seizure (black-out or convulsions).

What should I avoid?

Antibiotic medicines can cause diarrhea, which may be a sign of a new infection. If you have diarrhea that is watery or has blood in it, call your doctor. Do not use any medicine to stop the diarrhea unless your doctor has told you to.

Penicillin side effects

Get emergency medical help if you have any of these signs of an allergic reaction to penicillin V: hives; difficulty breathing; swelling of your face, lips, tongue, or throat. Call your doctor at once if you have any of these serious side effects:

- diarrhea that is watery or bloody;
- fever, chills, body aches, flu symptoms;
- easy bruising or bleeding, unusual weakness;
- urinating less than usual or not at all;
- severe skin rash, itching, or peeling;
- agitation, confusion, unusual thoughts or behavior; or
- seizure (black-out or convulsions).

Less serious penicillin V side effects are more likely to occur, such as:

- nausea, vomiting, stomach pain;
- vaginal itching or discharge;
- headache;
- swollen, black, or "hairy" tongue; or
- thrush (white patches or inside your mouth or throat).

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.

 [Penicillin v potassium side effects](#) (more detail)

Related/similar drugs

Bactrim

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

Reviews & ratings

5.4 / 10

[616 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

Keflex

Keflex (cephalexin) is used to treat infections caused by bacteria, including respiratory ...

Reviews & ratings

7.3 / 10

[91 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](#)

Vancomycin

Vancomycin is used to treat infections of the intestines that cause colitis. Learn about side ...

Reviews & ratings

6.5 / 10

[57 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](#)

Clindamycin

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

Reviews & ratings

5.7 / 10

[806 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](#)

Metronidazole

Metronidazole is an antibiotic used to fight bacteria in your body. Learn about side effects ...

Reviews & ratings

6.0 / 10

[2,431 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

What other drugs will affect penicillin?

Before taking penicillin V, tell your doctor if you are using any of the following drugs:

- methotrexate (Rheumatrex, Trexall); or
- probenecid (Benemid).

This list is not complete and there may be other drugs that can interact with penicillin V. Tell your doctor about all the prescription and over-the-counter medications you use. This includes vitamins, minerals, herbal products, and drugs prescribed by other doctors. Do not start using a new medication without telling your doctor.

i [Penicillin v potassium drug interactions](#) (more detail)

Does penicillin v potassium interact with my other drugs?

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

penicillin v potassium

+

Enter a drug name

Add

More about penicillin v potassium

- [Check interactions](#)
- [Compare alternatives](#)
- [Pricing & coupons](#)
- [Reviews \(56\)](#)
- [Drug images](#)
- [Side effects](#)
- [Dosage information](#)
- [During pregnancy](#)
- [Drug class: natural penicillins](#)
- [Breastfeeding](#)
- [En español](#)

Patient resources

- [Penicillin V Potassium Tablets patient information](#)

Other brands

[Penicillin VK, Veetids](#)

Professional resources

- [Penicillin V monograph](#)
- [Penicillin V \(FDA\)](#)
- [Penicillin V Potassium \(FDA\)](#)

Other brands

[Penicillin VK](#)

Related treatment guides

- [Bacterial Infection](#)
- [Fusospirochetosis, Trench Mouth](#)
- [Cutaneous Bacillus anthracis](#)
- [Clostridioides difficile 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.

[Medical Disclaimer](#)

Copyright 1996-2025 Cerner Multum, Inc. Version: 6.02.

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

 Drug history at FDA



User Reviews & Ratings

6.5 / 10

[56 Reviews](#)

Images

[Penicillin V Potassium 500 mg \(E 8 5\)](#)



[View larger images](#)

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.