

# Bicillin L-A<sup>®</sup>

Benzathine Benzylpenicillin Injection

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## Consumer Medicine Information

### What is in this leaflet

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This leaflet answers some common questions about Bicillin L-A. It does not contain all the available information. It does not take the place of talking to your doctor or pharmacist.

All medicines have risks and benefits. Your doctor has weighed the risks of you receiving Bicillin L-A against the benefits they expect it will have for you.

**If you have any questions about receiving this medicine, ask your doctor or pharmacist.**

#### **Keep this leaflet.**

You may need to read it again.

### What Bicillin L-A is used for

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Bicillin L-A is used to treat infections in different parts of the body caused by bacteria. Bicillin L-A is also used to prevent certain infections such as rheumatic fever. Bicillin L-A will not work against infections caused by viruses such as colds or the flu.

Bicillin belongs to the group of penicillin antibiotics. It works by killing bacteria or preventing their growth. This particular type of Bicillin is called Bicillin L-A because it is long-acting.

It is supplied in a syringe for once-only use.

Your doctor may have prescribed Bicillin L-A for another purpose. Ask your doctor if you have any questions about why Bicillin L-A has been prescribed for you.

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

### Before you are given Bicillin L-A

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#### **When you must not be given it:**

**Do not have Bicillin L-A if you have ever had an allergic reaction to Bicillin L-A, other penicillin antibiotics, or any of the ingredients listed at the end of this leaflet.**

Some of the symptoms of an allergic reaction may include skin rash; swelling of the mouth, throat or face; difficulty breathing.

**Do not have Bicillin L-A if the expiry date on the pack has passed.**

It may have no effect at all, or worse, an unexpected effect might result if you are given it after the expiry date.

**Do not have Bicillin L-A if the packaging is damaged or shows any signs of tampering.**

### **Before you are given it**

**You must tell your doctor if:**

- 1. you are pregnant, intend to become pregnant, are breastfeeding or plan to breastfeed.**

Your doctor will discuss the risks and benefits of using Bicillin L-A during pregnancy and breastfeeding.

- 2. you have, or have ever had any other health problems including asthma.**
- 3. you have any allergies to any other medicines or any other substances, such as foods, preservatives or dyes.**

If you have not told your doctor about any of the above, tell them before you are given Bicillin L-A.

### **Taking other medicines**

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

Some medicines may interfere with Bicillin L-A. These include:

- Tetracycline antibiotics
- Probenecid

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

Your doctor or pharmacist has more information on medicines to be careful with while using Bicillin L-A.

Bicillin L-A may interfere with some tests measuring glucose (sugar) in the urine. Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are having this sort of test.

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## How Bicillin L-A is given

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Bicillin L-A is usually only given by a doctor, pharmacist or nurse. It is injected into a muscle. For adults this is usually the buttocks. With small children it may be the thigh. It must not be injected near an artery or nerve. If the injection is repeated, a new site must be chosen.

Your doctor will decide what dose and how many times you will receive Bicillin L-A. This depends on your infection and other factors, such as your weight.

Sometimes only a single dose of Bicillin L-A is needed for the treatment or prevention of certain infections.

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## While you are using Bicillin L-A

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### ***Things you must do***

**If you become pregnant while you are receiving**

**Bicillin L-A injections tell your doctor.**

**If you are about to start taking any new medicines, tell your doctor or pharmacist you are receiving Bicillin L-A.**

**Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you develop severe diarrhoea, even if it occurs several weeks after you have stopped receiving Bicillin L-A.**

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.

### ***Things to be careful of***

**Contact your doctor immediately if:**

- you experience any symptoms of an allergy
- you have severe pain in the muscle where your Bicillin L-A injection was given
- you get thrush or any other infection soon after receiving Bicillin L-A

Overgrowth of certain bacteria or fungi not killed by Bicillin L-A can sometimes occur.

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## Side Effects

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**Tell your doctor or pharmacist as soon as possible if you do not feel well while you are receiving Bicillin L-A.**

Bicillin L-A helps most people with certain bacterial infections, but it may have

unwanted side effects in some people.

All medicines can have side effects. Sometimes they are serious, most of the time they are not. You may need medical treatment if you get some of the side effects.

**Ask your doctor or pharmacist any questions you may have.**

**Tell your doctor immediately if you notice any of the following side effects listed below.**

Allergic side effects to Bicillin L-A include:

- skin rashes
- hives
- chills and fever
- swelling, including swelling of the throat
- joint pain

Other side effects include:

- blood disorders
- damaged kidneys
- damaged nerves
- tissue damage at injection site
- infection by other bacteria
- diarrhoea
- inflammation of the large bowel.

These are generally rare.

Some people may get other side effects whilst receiving Bicillin L-A.

**Tell your doctor if you notice anything else that is making you feel unwell, even if it is not on this list.**

Ask your doctor or pharmacist if you do not understand anything in this list.

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## After using Bicillin L-A

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### **Storage**

Bicillin L-A is usually stored by your doctor or pharmacist.

If you are storing Bicillin L-A, keep it where young children cannot reach it.

Bicillin L-A must be kept in a refrigerator (2-8°C). Do not keep it in the door of the refrigerator, or the freezer.

### **Disposal**

Your doctor or nurse should dispose of the Bicillin L-A syringe and any leftover contents after use. Do not handle or re-use the syringe.

### **Further information**

This is not all the information that is available on Bicillin L-A. If you have any more questions or are not sure about anything, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

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## Product description

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### **What it looks like**

Bicillin L-A is supplied as a prefilled syringe.

### **Ingredients**

Each syringe contains a thick white liquid. This liquid contains 900mg of the active ingredient, benzathine benzylpenicillin in 2.3mL. (The stated volume of 2.3mL is a theoretical volume based on

potency at the time of manufacture. Use a concentration of 442mg/mL when measuring part doses).

The liquid also contains the following inactive ingredients:

- sodium citrate
- carmellose sodium
- lecithin
- povidone
- methyl hydroxybenzoate
- propyl hydroxybenzoate

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## Manufacturer

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Bicillin L-A is supplied by:  
Aspen Pharmacare Australia  
Pty Ltd  
34-36 Chandos St  
St Leonards NSW 2065  
Australia

Pharmacy Retailing (NZ)  
Limited trading as  
Healthcare Logistics  
58 Richard Pearse Drive  
Auckland  
New Zealand

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