How and when to take amoxicillin

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Dosage and how to take amoxicillin

Dosage and strength

The usual dose of amoxicillin capsules is 250mg to 500mg, taken 3 times a day. The dose may be lower for children.

Amoxicillin liquid is available in 2 strengths containing either 125mg in 5ml or 250mg in 5ml.

How to take it

Try to space your doses evenly throughout the day. If you take it 3 times a day, this could be first thing in the morning, mid-afternoon and at bedtime.

You can take amoxicillin before or after food.

Swallow amoxicillin capsules whole with a drink of water. Do not chew or break them.

Amoxicillin is available as a liquid for children and people who find it difficult to swallow capsules. It will usually be made up for you by your pharmacist.

The medicine will come with an oral syringe or spoon to help you measure out the right dose. If you do not have one, ask your pharmacist for one. Do not use a kitchen teaspoon as it will not measure the right amount.

How long to take it for

You should carry on taking amoxicillin until you've finished the course, even if you feel better. If you stop your treatment early, the infection could come back.

If you do not start feeling better after taking amoxicillin for 3 to 5 days, or you start to feel worse at any point, tell your doctor.

If you forget to take it

If you forget to take a dose, take it as soon as you remember, unless it's nearly time for your next dose. In this case, just leave out the missed dose and take your next dose at the usual time.

Never take 2 doses at the same time. Never take an extra dose to make up for a forgotten one.

If you often forget doses, it may help to set an alarm to remind you. You could also ask your pharmacist for advice on other ways to remember your medicines.

If you take too much

Taking an extra dose of amoxicillin is unlikely to harm you or your child, but speak to your pharmacist or doctor if you're worried.

Urgent advice: Contact 111 for advice now if:

You have taken more than your prescribed dose of amoxicillin and have symptoms including:

- stomach pain or you're being sick
- blood in your pee, problems peeing, or peeing less than usual

Call 111 or get help from 111 online. Call 111 if you're asking about a child under 5 years old.

If you need to go to A&E, do not drive. Ask someone to drive you or call 999 and ask for an ambulance.

Bring the amoxicillin packet or leaflet inside it, any remaining medicine, and any other medicines you take.

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> **Information from the NHS website** • 3 Nov 2026
> Read the original public sector page: https://www.nhs.uk/medicines/amoxicillin/how-and-when-to-take-amoxicillin/

Sources

- NHS.uk — https://www.nhs.uk/medicines/amoxicillin/how-and-when-to-take-amoxicillin/

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Avanti Medico provides general information only — never a diagnosis. In an emergency call 999.

Avanti Medico: important health information

This service provides general health information only. It is **not a diagnosis**, not a treatment plan, and not a substitute for professional medical advice.

In an emergency

If you have any of the following, call **999** immediately or go to A&E:

- Chest pain, breathlessness, or signs of stroke (face droop, arm weakness, slurred speech)
- Severe bleeding that will not stop with pressure
- Sudden confusion or loss of consciousness
- A child under 3 months with a fever
- Suicidal thoughts or self-harm urges

For non-emergencies that need urgent advice, call **NHS 111** (UK) or visit **111.nhs.uk**.

For mental-health crisis support, call **Samaritans on 116 123** (24/7, free).

What this service is

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Where we show a passage word for word, without changing it, we label it "Information from the NHS website" (or "Information from NHS inform"), with a link to the page and the date we copied it.

What this service is not

- It is not a doctor.
- It does not prescribe medicine.
- It does not replace seeing your GP.
- It cannot make a diagnosis.

By using Avanti Medico you accept these limits.

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