

Summary of product characteristics for pharmaceutical products

1. Name of the medicinal product

Amoxicillin Capsules 500 mg

2. Qualitative and quantitative composition

Each Filled capsule contains Amoxicillin Trihydrate BP/EP equivalent to Amoxicillin 500 mg.

For a full list of excipients, see section 6.1.

3. Pharmaceutical form

Capsules containing white to yellow powder or granules.

4. Clinical particulars

4.1 Therapeutic indications

Amoxicillin is indicated for the following infections in adults and Pediatric Patients caused by sensitive bacteria (only β -lactamase-negative) (see section 4.2, 4.4 and 5.1):

1. Upper Respiratory Tract Infections of the Ear, Nose, and Throat: Amoxicillin capsules are indicated in the treatment of infections due to susceptible isolates of *Streptococcus* species. (α -and β -hemolytic isolates only), *Streptococcus pneumoniae*, *Staphylococcus* spp., or *Haemophilus influenzae*.
2. Infections of the Genitourinary Tract: Amoxicillin capsules are indicated in the treatment of infections due to susceptible isolates of *Escherichia coli*, *Proteus mirabilis*, or *Enterococcus faecalis*.
3. Infections of the Skin and Skin Structure: Amoxicillin capsules are indicated in the treatment of infections due to susceptible isolates of *Streptococcus* spp. (α -and β -hemolytic isolates only), *Staphylococcus* spp., or *E. coli*.
4. Infections of the Lower Respiratory Tract: Amoxicillin capsules are indicated in the treatment of infections due to susceptible isolates of *Streptococcus* spp., *S. pneumoniae*, *Staphylococcus* spp., or *H. influenzae*.
5. *Helicobacter pylori* Infection: Please refer to the instructions for other drugs used in combination and related guidelines for full prescribing information.

Consideration should be given to official guidance on the appropriate use of antibacterial agents.

4.2 Posology and method of administration

Posology

Adults and Pediatric Patients

Treatment should be continued for a minimum of 48 to 72 hours beyond the time that the patient becomes asymptomatic, or evidence of bacterial eradication has been obtained.

It is recommended that there be at least 10 days' treatment for any infection caused by *Streptococcus pyogenes* to prevent the occurrence of acute rheumatic fever.

In some infections, therapy may be required for several weeks. It may be necessary to continue clinical and/or bacteriological follow-up for several months after cessation of therapy.

Appropriate dosage form is recommended for pediatric patients.

Infection	Severity	Recommended Dosage for Adults and Pediatric Patients Weight Greater than 40 kg	Recommended Dosage for Pediatric Patients Weight Less than 40 kg (Aged 3 Months and Older)
Ear/Nose/Throat Skin/ Skin Structure Genitourinary Tract	Mild/ Moderate	500 mg every 12 hours or 250 mg every 8 hours	25 mg/kg/day in divided doses every 12 hours or 20 mg/kg/day in divided doses every 8 hours
	Severe	500 mg every 8 hours	45 mg/kg/day in divided doses every 12 hours or 40 mg/kg/day in divided doses every 8 hours
Lower Respiratory Tract	Mild/ Moderate or Severe	500 mg every 8 hours	45 mg/kg/day in divided doses every 12 hours or 40 mg/kg/day in divided doses every 8 hours
Remark: Dosage for infections caused by bacteria that are intermediate in their susceptibility to amoxicillin should follow the recommendations for severe infections.			

Dosage for *H. pylori* Infection in Adults:

Eradication of *H. pylori*: amoxicillin 1g twice daily (once every 12 hours) in combination with another medicine.

Please refer to the instructions for other drugs used in combination and related guidelines for full prescribing information.

Patients with renal impairment:

In renal impairment the excretion of the antibiotic will be delayed and, depending on the degree of impairment, it may be necessary to reduce the total daily dosage according to the following scheme:

Glomerular Filtration Rate(GFR) 10 to 30 mL/min, 500 mg or 250 mg every 12 hours, depending on the severity of the infection;

Glomerular Filtration Rate(GFR) less than 10 mL/min, 500 mg or 250 mg every 24 hours, depending on the severity of the infection.

Hemodialysis: 500 mg or 250 mg every 24 hours, depending on severity of the infection administer an additional dose both during and at the end of dialysis. No special dosage recommendations for paediatrics with renal impairment.

Hepatic impairment

Dose with caution and monitor hepatic function at regular intervals (see sections 4.4 and 4.8). Elderly

No dose adjustment is considered necessary.

Method of administration:

Amoxicillin capsules is for oral use.

Absorption of amoxicillin is unimpaired by food.

Therapy can be started parenterally according to the dosing recommendations of the intravenous formulation and continued with an oral preparation.

Swallow with water without opening capsule.

4.3 Contraindications

Hypersensitivity to the active substance, to any of the penicillins or to any of the excipients listed in section 6.1.

History of a severe immediate hypersensitivity reaction (e.g. anaphylaxis) to another beta-lactam agent (e.g. a cephalosporin, carbapenem or monobactam).

4.4 Special warnings and precautions for use

Hypersensitivity reactions

Before initiating therapy with amoxicillin, careful enquiry should be made concerning previous hypersensitivity reactions to penicillins, cephalosporins or other beta-lactam agents (see sections 4.3 and 4.8).

Serious and occasionally fatal hypersensitivity reactions (including anaphylactoid and severe cutaneous adverse reactions) have been reported in patients on penicillin therapy. These reactions are more likely to occur in individuals with a history of penicillin hypersensitivity and in atopic individuals. If an allergic reaction occurs, amoxicillin

therapy must be discontinued and appropriate alternative therapy instituted.

Non-susceptible microorganisms

Amoxicillin is not suitable for the treatment of some types of infection unless the pathogen is already documented and known to be susceptible or there is a very high likelihood that the pathogen would be suitable for treatment with amoxicillin (see section 5.1). This particularly applies when considering the treatment of patients with urinary tract infections and severe infections of the ear, nose and throat.

Convulsions

Convulsions may occur in patients with impaired renal function or in those receiving high doses or in patients with predisposing factors (e.g. history of seizures, treated epilepsy or meningeal disorders (see section 4.8).

Renal impairment

In patients with renal impairment, the dose should be adjusted according to the degree of impairment (see section 4.2).

Skin reactions

The occurrence at the treatment initiation of a feverish generalised erythema associated with pustula may be a symptom of acute generalised exanthemous pustulosis (AEGP, see section 4.8). This reaction requires amoxicillin discontinuation and contra-indicates any subsequent administration.

Amoxicillin should be avoided if infectious mononucleosis is suspected since the occurrence of a morbilliform rash has been associated with this condition following the use of amoxicillin.

Jarisch-Herxheimer reaction

The Jarisch-Herxheimer reaction has been seen following amoxicillin treatment of Lyme disease (see section 4.8). It results directly from the bactericidal activity of amoxicillin on the causative bacteria of Lyme disease, the spirochaete *Borrelia burgdorferi*. Patients should be reassured that this is a common and usually self-limiting consequence of antibiotic treatment of Lyme disease.

Overgrowth of non-susceptible microorganisms

Prolonged use may occasionally result in overgrowth of non-susceptible organisms.

Antibiotic-associated colitis has been reported with nearly all antibacterial agents and may range in severity from mild to life threatening (see section 4.8). Therefore, it is important to consider this diagnosis in patients who present with diarrhoea during, or subsequent to, the administration of any antibiotics. Should antibiotic-associated colitis occur, amoxicillin should immediately be discontinued, a physician consulted and an appropriate therapy initiated. Anti-peristaltic medicinal products are contra-indicated in this situation.

Prolonged therapy

Periodic assessment of organ system functions; including renal, hepatic and haematopoietic function is advisable during prolonged therapy. Elevated liver enzymes and changes in blood counts have been reported. (see section 4.8).

Anticoagulants

Prolongation of Prothrombin time has been reported rarely in patients receiving amoxicillin. Appropriate monitoring should be undertaken when anticoagulants are prescribed concomitantly. Adjustments in the dose of oral anticoagulants may be necessary to maintain the desired level of anticoagulation (see sections 4.5 and 4.8).

Crystalluria

In patients with reduced urine output, crystalluria has been observed very rarely, predominantly with parenteral therapy. During the administration of high doses of amoxicillin, it is advisable to maintain adequate fluid intake and urinary output in order to minimize the possibility of amoxicillin crystalluria. In patients with bladder catheters, a regular check of patency should be maintained (see section 4.8 and 4.9).

Interference with diagnostic agents

Elevated serum and urinary levels of amoxicillin are likely to affect certain laboratory tests. Due to the high urinary concentrations of amoxicillin, false positive readings are common with chemical methods.

It is recommended that when testing for the presence of glucose in urine during amoxicillin treatment, enzymatic glucose oxidase methods should be used.

The presence of amoxicillin may distort assay results for oestriol in pregnant women.

Development of Drug-Resistant Bacteria

Prescribing amoxicillin in the absence of a proven or strongly suspected bacterial infection or prophylactic indication is unlikely to provide benefit to the patient and increases the risk of the development of drug-resistant bacteria.

Effects on ability to drive and use machines

No studies on the effects on the ability to drive and use machines have been performed. However, undesirable effects may occur (e.g. allergic reactions, dizziness, convulsions), which may influence the ability to drive and use machines (see section 4.8).

4.5 Interaction with other medicinal products and other forms of interaction

Probenecid

Concomitant use of probenecid is not recommended. Probenecid decreases the renal tubular secretion of amoxicillin. Concomitant use of probenecid may result in increased and prolonged blood levels of amoxicillin.

Allopurinol

Concurrent administration of allopurinol during treatment with amoxicillin can increase the likelihood of allergic skin reactions.

Tetracyclines

Tetracyclines and other bacteriostatic drugs may interfere with the bactericidal effects of amoxicillin.

Oral anticoagulants

Oral anticoagulants and penicillin antibiotics have been widely used in practice without reports of interaction. However, in the literature there are cases of increased international normalised ratio in patients maintained on acenocoumarol or warfarin and prescribed a course of amoxicillin. If co-administration is necessary, the prothrombin time or international normalised ratio should be carefully monitored with the addition or withdrawal of amoxicillin. Moreover, adjustments in the dose of oral anticoagulants may be necessary (see sections 4.4 and 4.8).

Methotrexate

Penicillins may reduce the excretion of methotrexate causing a potential increase in toxicity.

4.6 Fertility, pregnancy and lactation

Pregnancy

Animal studies do not indicate direct or indirect harmful effects with respect to reproductive toxicity.

Limited data on the use of amoxicillin during pregnancy in humans do not indicate an increased risk of congenital malformations. Amoxicillin may be used in pregnancy when the potential benefits outweigh the potential risks associated with treatment.

Breast-feeding

Amoxicillin is excreted into breast milk in small quantities with the possible risk of sensitisation. Consequently, diarrhoea and fungus infection of the mucous membranes are possible in the breast-fed infant, so that breast-feeding might have to be discontinued. Amoxicillin should only be used during breast-feeding after benefit/risk assessment by the physician in charge.

Fertility

There are no data on the effects of amoxicillin on fertility in humans. Reproductive studies in animals have shown no effects on fertility.

4.7 Effects on ability to drive and use machines

No studies on the effects on the ability to drive and use machines have been performed. However, undesirable effects may occur (e.g. allergic reactions, dizziness, convulsions), which may influence the ability to drive and use machines (see section 4.8).

4.8 Undesirable effects

The most commonly reported adverse drug reactions (ADRs) are diarrhoea, nausea and skin rash.

The ADRs derived from clinical studies and post-marketing surveillance with amoxicillin, presented by MedDRA System Organ Class are listed below.

The following terminologies have been used in order to classify the occurrence of undesirable effects. Very common ($\geq 1/10$) common ($\geq 1/100$ to $< 1/10$) uncommon ($\geq 1/1000$ to $< 1/100$) rare ($\geq 1/10,000$ to $< 1/1000$) very rare ($< 1/10,000$)

Not known (cannot be estimated from the available data)

Infections and infestations

Very rare: Mucocutaneous candidiasis

Blood and lymphatic system disorders

Very rare: Reversible leucopenia (including severe neutropenia or agranulocytosis), reversible thrombocytopenia and haemolytic anaemia.

Prolongation of bleeding time and prothrombin time (see section 4.4)

Immune system disorders

Very rare: Severe allergic reactions, including angioneurotic oedema, anaphylaxis, serum sickness and hypersensitivity vasculitis (see section 4.4).

Not Known: Jarisch-Herxheimer reaction (see section 4.4).

Nervous system disorders

Very rare: Hyperkinesia, dizziness and convulsions (see section 4.4).

Gastrointestinal disorders

Clinical Trial Data

* *Common:* Diarrhoea and nausea.

* *Uncommon:* Vomiting.

Post-marketing Data

Very rare: Antibiotic associated colitis (including pseudomembranous colitis and haemorrhagic colitis, see section 4.4).

Black hairy tongue

Hepatobiliary disorders

Very rare: Hepatitis and cholestatic jaundice. A moderate rise in AST and/or ALT.

Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders

Clinical Trial Data

**Common:* Skin rash

**Uncommon:* Urticaria and pruritus

Post-marketing Data

Very rare: Skin reactions such as erythema multiforme, Stevens-Johnson syndrome, toxic epidermal necrolysis, bullous and exfoliative dermatitis, acute generalised exanthematous pustulosis (AGEP) (See

section 4.4) and drug reaction with eosinophilia and systemic symptoms (DRESS).

Renal and urinary tract disorders

Very rare: Interstitial nephritis, Crystalluria (see section 4.4 and 4.9 Overdose)

*The incidence of these AEs was derived from clinical studies involving a total of approximately 6,000 adult and pediatric patients taking amoxicillin.

Reporting of suspected adverse reactions

Reporting suspected adverse reactions after authorisation of the medicinal product is important. It allows continued monitoring of the benefit/risk balance of the medicinal product. Healthcare professionals are asked to report any suspected adverse reactions via <https://pv.pharmacyboardkenya.org>

4.9 Overdose

Symptoms and signs of overdose

Gastrointestinal symptoms (such as nausea, vomiting and diarrhoea) and disturbance of the fluid and electrolyte balances may be evident. Amoxicillin crystalluria, in some cases leading to renal failure, has been observed. Convulsions may occur in patients with impaired renal function or in those receiving high doses (see sections 4.4 and 4.8).

Treatment of intoxication

Gastrointestinal symptoms may be treated symptomatically, with attention to the water/electrolyte balance.

Amoxicillin may be removed from the circulation by haemodialysis.

5. Pharmacological properties

5.1 Pharmacodynamic properties

Pharmacotherapeutic group: Penicillins with extended spectrum; ATC Code J01CA04

Mechanism of action

Amoxicillin is a semisynthetic penicillin (beta-lactam antibiotic) that inhibits one or more enzymes (often referred to as penicillin-binding proteins, PBPs) in the biosynthetic pathway of bacterial peptidoglycan, which is an integral structural component of the bacterial cell wall.

Inhibition of peptidoglycan synthesis leads to weakening of the cell wall, which is usually followed by cell lysis and death.

Amoxicillin is susceptible to degradation by beta-lactamases produced by resistant bacteria and therefore the spectrum of activity of amoxicillin alone does not include organisms which produce these enzymes.

Pharmacokinetic/pharmacodynamics relationship

The time above the minimum inhibitory concentration (T>MIC) is considered to be the major determinant of efficacy for amoxicillin.

Mechanisms of resistance

The main mechanisms of resistance to amoxicillin are:

- Inactivation by bacterial beta-lactamases.
- Alteration of PBPs, which reduce the affinity of the antibacterial agent for the target.

Impermeability of bacteria or efflux pump mechanisms may cause or contribute to bacterial resistance, particularly in Gram-negative bacteria.

Breakpoints

MIC breakpoints for amoxicillin are those of the European Committee on Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing (EUCAST) version 5.0.

Organism	MIC breakpoint (mg/L)	
	Susceptible ≤	Resistant >
Enterobacteriaceae	8 ¹	8
<i>Staphylococcus</i> spp.	Note ²	Note ²
<i>Enterococcus</i> spp. ³	4	8
Streptococcus groups A, B, C and G	Note ⁴	Note ⁴
<i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i>	Note ⁵	Note ⁵
Viridans group streptococci	0.5	2
<i>Haemophilus influenzae</i>	2 ⁶	2 ⁶
<i>Moraxella catarrhalis</i>	Note ⁷	Note ⁷
<i>Neisseria meningitidis</i>	0.125	1

Gram positive anaerobes except <i>Clostridium difficile</i> ⁸	4	8
Gram negative anaerobes ⁸	0.5	2
<i>Helicobacter pylori</i>	0.125 ⁹	0.125 ⁹
<i>Pasteurella multocida</i>	1	1
Non- species related breakpoints ¹⁰	2	8

¹Wild type Enterobacteriaceae are categorised as susceptible to aminopenicillins. Some countries prefer to categorise wild type isolates of *E. coli* and *P. mirabilis* as intermediate. When this is the case, use the MIC breakpoint $S \leq 0.5$ mg/L.

²Most staphylococci are penicillinase producers, which are resistant to amoxicillin. Methicillin resistant isolates are, with few exceptions, resistant to all beta-lactam agents.

³Susceptibility to amoxicillin can be inferred from ampicillin

⁴The susceptibility of streptococcus groups A, B, C and G to penicillins is inferred from the benzylpenicillin susceptibility.

⁵Breakpoints relate only to non-meningitis isolates. For isolates categorised as intermediate to ampicillin avoid oral treatment with amoxicillin. Susceptibility inferred from the MIC of ampicillin.

⁶Breakpoints are based on intravenous administration. Beta-lactamase positive isolates should be reported resistant.

⁷Beta lactamase producers should be reported resistant

⁸Susceptibility to amoxicillin can be inferred from benzylpenicillin.

⁹The breakpoints are based on epidemiological cut-off values (ECOFFs), which distinguish wild-type isolates from those with reduced susceptibility.

¹⁰The non-species related breakpoints are based on doses of at least 0.5 g x 3 or 4 doses daily (1.5 to 2 g/day).

The prevalence of acquired resistance may vary geographically and with time for selected species and local information on resistance is desirable, particularly when treating severe infections. As necessary, expert advice should be sought when the local prevalence of resistance is such that the utility of the agent in at least some types of infections is questionable.

<i>In vitro</i> susceptibility of micro-organisms to Amoxicillin
<u>Commonly Susceptible Species</u>
<u>Gram-positive aerobes</u>

Enterococcus faecalis
Beta-hemolytic streptococci (Groups A, B, C and G)
Listeria monocytogenes

Species for which acquired resistance may be a problem

Gram-negative aerobes:

Escherichia coli
Haemophilus influenzae
Helicobacter pylori
Proteus mirabilis
Salmonella typhi
Salmonella paratyphi
Pasteurella multocida

Gram-positive aerobes:

Coagulase negative staphylococcus

*Staphylococcus aureus**
Streptococcus pneumoniae
Viridans group streptococcus

Gram-positive anaerobes: *Clostridium*
spp.

Gram-negative anaerobes: *Fusobacterium*
spp.

Other:

Borrelia burgdorferi

Inherently resistant organisms †

Gram-positive aerobes:

Enterococcus faecium†

Gram-negative aerobes:

Acinetobacter spp.
Enterobacter spp.
Klebsiella spp.
Pseudomonas spp.

Gram-negative anaerobes:

Bacteroides spp. (many strains of *Bacteroides fragilis* are resistant).

Others:

Chlamydia spp.

Mycoplasma spp.

Legionella spp.

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† Natural intermediate susceptibility in the absence of acquired mechanism of resistance.

* Almost all *S.aureus* are resistant to amoxicillin due to production of penicillinase. In addition, all methicillin-resistant strains are resistant to amoxicillin.

5.2 Pharmacokinetic properties

Absorption:

Amoxicillin fully dissociates in aqueous solution at physiological pH. It is rapidly and well absorbed by the oral route of administration. Following oral administration, amoxicillin is approximately 70% bioavailable. The time to peak plasma concentration (T_{max}) is approximately one hour.

The pharmacokinetic results for a study, in which an amoxicillin dose of 250 mg three times daily was administered in the fasting state to groups of healthy volunteers are presented below.

C _{max}	T _{max} *	AUC (0-24h)	T _{1/2}
(µg/ml)	(h)	(µg.h/ml)	(h)
3.3 ± 1.12	1.5 (1.0-2.0)	26.7 ± 4.56	1.36 ± 0.56
*Median (range)			

In the range 250 to 3000 mg the bioavailability is linear in proportion to dose (measured as C_{max} and AUC). The absorption is not influenced by simultaneous food intake.

Haemodialysis can be used for elimination of amoxicillin.

Distribution:

About 18% of total plasma amoxicillin is bound to protein and the apparent volume of distribution is around 0.3 to 0.4 l/kg.

Following intravenous administration, amoxicillin has been found in gall bladder, abdominal tissue, skin, fat, muscle tissues, synovial and peritoneal fluids, bile and pus. Amoxicillin does not adequately distribute into the cerebrospinal fluid.

From animal studies there is no evidence for significant tissue retention of drug-derived material. Amoxicillin, like most penicillins, can be detected in breast milk (see section 4.6).

Amoxicillin has been shown to cross the placental barrier (see section 4.6).

Biotransformation:

Amoxicillin is partly excreted in the urine as the inactive penicilloic acid in quantities equivalent to up to 10 to 25% of the initial dose.

Elimination

The major route of elimination for amoxicillin is via the kidney.

Amoxicillin has a mean elimination half-life of approximately one hour and a mean total clearance of approximately 25 l/hour in healthy subjects. Approximately 60 to 70% of the amoxicillin is excreted unchanged in urine during the first 6 hours after administration of a single 250 mg or 500 mg dose of amoxicillin. Various studies have found the urinary excretion to be 50-85% for amoxicillin over a 24 hour period.

Concomitant use of probenecid delays amoxicillin excretion (see section 4.5).

Age

The elimination half-life of amoxicillin is similar for children aged around 3 months to 2 years and older children and adults. For very young children (including preterm newborns) in the first week of life the interval of administration should not exceed twice daily administration due to immaturity of the renal pathway of elimination. Because elderly patients are more likely to have decreased renal function, care should be taken in dose selection, and it may be useful to monitor renal function.

Gender

Following oral administration of amoxicillin to healthy males and female subjects, gender has no significant impact on the pharmacokinetics of amoxicillin.

Renal impairment

The total serum clearance of amoxicillin decreases proportionately with decreasing renal function (see sections 4.2 and 4.4).

Hepatic impairment

Hepatically impaired patients should be dosed with caution and hepatic function monitored at regular intervals.

5.3 Preclinical safety data

Non-clinical data reveal no special hazard for humans based on studies of safety pharmacology, repeated dose toxicity, genotoxicity and toxicity to reproduction and development.

Carcinogenicity studies have not been conducted with amoxicillin.

6. Pharmaceutical particulars

6.1 List of excipients

Each capsule contains:

Magnesium stearate

Purified talc.

6.2 Incompatibilities

Not applicable

6.3 Shelf life

36 months

6.4 Special precautions for storage

Store below 30°C away from light and moisture.

6.5 Nature and contents of container

10 capsules packed in a blister pack containing PVC with a backing of Aluminium foil.

6.6 Special precautions for disposal and other handling

No special requirements.

7. Marketing authorisation holder

North China Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd.

No.388 Heping East Road, Shijiazhuang, Hebei, P.R. China.

Telephone number: +86-311-

85528588

Fax: +86-311-85051711

8. Marketing authorisation number(s)

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9. Date of first authorisation/renewal of the authorisation

04/08/2023

10. Date of revision of the text

August 2025