

Health insurance made easy

Prescriptions and pharmacies in Germany

When visiting a doctor, you may receive a prescription for medication. There are different kinds of prescriptions in Germany.

Prescriptions typically come in the colors green, yellow and blue. The color determines who pays for the medication and how long the prescription is valid.

The pink prescription was replaced by the new E-Rezept, an electronic prescription. It applies to prescription-only medication and is valid for 28 days. Usually, the prescription medication is covered by your health insurance.

You may need to make a co-payment of a maximum of 10 euros for each medicine. This co-payment applies to everyone in Germany who is covered by public health insurance.

There are three ways that you can receive your E-Rezept.

- You can get it on your electronic health card. You do not need a new card or pin.
- You can also use the app “Das E-Rezept” by gematik.
- The third option is a printout with a prescription code.

If you receive a green prescription, you will have to pay the full amount yourself.

In the future, all prescription types will gradually become available as electronic prescriptions.

Where can you receive the medication? Pharmacies are almost everywhere and easy to find. You can identify pharmacies in Germany with this symbol. There, you get prescription-only medicines as well as over-the-counter medication and other products like cosmetics.

At the pharmacy, simply show your electronic health card, your E-Rezept app or your printout to receive your medication. You need to make the small co-payment for your prescription-only medicine to the pharmacy when you receive the medication.

Pharmacies usually have normal business hours, like other shops in Germany.

However, there are also emergency pharmacies, which remain open at night or on Sunday. The nearest open emergency pharmacy is displayed on the window of every pharmacy and on the internet. Please remember that you will have to pay an additional surcharge on Sundays or at night.

You can also purchase your medication through online pharmacies.

Non-prescription medications are also available in some drugstores in Germany.

Do you have any more questions about health insurance in Germany? Don't hesitate to contact us. We're always happy to assist you.

BARMER. Your partner in health insurance.