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## Prescriptions (Rezepte) in Germany

German prescriptions come in three types (Kassenrezept, Privatrezept, Grünes Rezept) and are primarily electronic since 2024. Patients with public insurance pay 5-10€ per medication, with annual limits and exemptions for certain groups.

**Deutsche Begriffe:** Rezept | Privatrezept | Kassenrezept | E-Rezept | Apotheke | Zuzahlung | eGK | Grünes Rezept | Belastungsgrenze

## Types of Prescriptions in Germany

In Germany, a prescription (**Rezept**) has a color depending on who pays for the medication:

Type	Color	Who pays
<b>Kassenrezept</b>	pink / e-prescription	Krankenkasse (you pay Zuzahlung)
<b>Privatrezept</b>	blue	you (sometimes reimbursed by private insurance)
<b>Grünes Rezept</b>	green	you — this is a recommendation for over-the-counter medication (OTC)

If you are statutorily insured, you receive a **Kassenrezept**; the entire system is described in Health Insurance (Krankenversicherung).

## E-Rezept — Electronic Prescription

Since 01.01.2024, prescriptions for medications for statutorily insured persons are issued as **E-Rezept**. You can fill it at a pharmacy (Apotheke) in three ways:

- insert your **eGK** (insurance card) into the reader — no PIN required,
- via the **E-Rezept** application (or eHealth-CardLink with your smartphone and NFC card),
- on a paper printout with a code.

A **Kassenrezept** (e-prescription) is valid for **28 days**; a Privatrezept usually for 3 months. If the pharmacy does not have the medication, they order it for the next day or deliver it (Botendienst). From 2026, **T-Rezepte** and prescriptions for controlled substances (BtM) will also be issued electronically.

## Zuzahlung and Exemptions

With a **Kassenrezept**, you pay **Zuzahlung: 10% of the medication price, minimum 5 €, maximum 10 €** for each prescription medication (never more than the price of the medication). Children under 18 are exempt. Annual copayments are limited by the **Belastungsgrenze** — above **2% of your annual gross income** (1% for chronic illnesses), you can request an exemption from further Zuzahlung from your insurance fund. You receive the prescription during a doctor's visit — if you are going on sick leave, the doctor issues a separate Sick Certificate (Krankschreibung).