



Technical Bulletin

Division of Public and Behavioral Health



Date: April 2017

Topic: Update Regarding Bicillin L-A and Penicillin G Procaine Shortage & Syphilis Treatment

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To: Health Care Providers, Medical Facilities, and Correctional Facilities

Current Situation:

Pfizer, the sole manufacturer of Bicillin L-A® (Penicillin G benzathine) and Penicillin G procaine in the United States, is still experiencing a manufacturing delay of these products. The availability of Penicillin G benzathine will be in limited supply for several months, and Penicillin G procaine is currently unavailable. Penicillin G benzathine is the recommended treatment for syphilis, and the only recommended treatment for pregnant women infected or exposed to syphilis. Penicillin G procaine is one of the most recommended treatments for congenital syphilis and an alternative treatment for both neurosyphilis (NS) and ocular syphilis (OS).

Recommendations for Bicillin L-A®:

Take inventory and monitor your supply of Bicillin L-A. Continue to contact distributors to procure Penicillin G benzathine, as appropriate. Please report to your local health department or the State of Nevada STD Prevention and Control Program any shortages when inventory is less than two months of product based on projected use.

Implement a usage strategy if inventory is less than two months of product based on projected use.

- Discourage the use of Penicillin G benzathine for treatment of other infectious diseases (e.g. streptococcal pharyngitis) where other effective antimicrobials are available.
- Adhere to the recommended dosing regimen of 2.4 million units of Penicillin G benzathine IM for the treatment of primary, secondary and early latent syphilis (early syphilis) as outlined in the 2015 STD Treatment Guidelines. Additional doses to treat early syphilis do not enhance efficacy, including patients living with HIV infection.

Recommendations for Penicillin G procaine:

Continue to use recommended options to treat congenital syphilis and neurosyphilis/ocular syphilis. The CDC is not recommending any changes to treatment recommendations for patients with syphilis.

If you have questions about syphilis clinical management, please contact an infectious disease specialist or the on-line National Network of STD Clinical Prevention Training Centers (NNPTC) STD Clinical Consultation Network: <https://www.stdccn.org>. Should you need any assistance or need to report critical shortages that you are experiencing, please contact your local health department, or the Nevada STD Prevention and Control Program at (702) 486-3567.

For More Information:

2015 STD Treatment Guidelines - <http://www.cdc.gov/std/tg2015/syphilis.htm>

Food and Drug Administration (FDA) - [FDA's Drug Shortage Website](http://www.fda.gov/oc/ohrt/drug-shortage/)

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention - <http://www.cdc.gov/std/treatment/drugnotices/bicillinshortage.htm>
<http://www.cdc.gov/std/treatment/drugnotices/procaine-peng.htm>

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