



525-535 West Jefferson Street • Springfield, Illinois 62761-0001 • www.dph.illinois.gov

TO: Local Health Departments, Hospitals, Clinics, all Medical Providers, FQHCs, IL Educational Roles, and Healthcare Coalitions

CC: IDPH CD Leads and Staff

From: IDPH Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) Section

Date: July 24, 2023

Subject: Nationwide Bicillin Shortage

Due to increased demand, the FDA has listed penicillin G benzathine injectable suspension products (Bicillin L-A®) on [their drug shortage webpage](#). The FDA website includes an expected duration for the shortage. CDC continues to monitor the situation and will post updates as needed. Below is a listing of the [updated CDC recommendations](#) on this shortage.

Bicillin L-A® is the first-line recommended treatment for syphilis and the only recommended treatment option for some patients. ***Congenital syphilis is on the rise. Nationwide, congenital syphilis has risen 203% since 2017 and it is critically important that providers prioritize Bicillin L-A as listed below.***

During this time, programs should:

- Continue to follow [CDC's treatment recommendations](#). Penicillin G benzathine (Bicillin L-A®) is the only recommended treatment for pregnant people infected with or exposed to syphilis.
 - Doxycycline 100mg PO BID for two weeks (for early syphilis) or for four weeks (for late latent or syphilis of unknown duration) is an alternative for the treatment of non-pregnant people with a penicillin allergy.
- **Prioritize the use of Bicillin L-A® to treat pregnant people and babies with congenital syphilis.**
- To help CDC continue to monitor the situation, notify DSTDP (stdshortages@cdc.gov) of:
 - Shortages or stock-outs of Bicillin L-A® in the jurisdiction.
 - Situations in which patients diagnosed with syphilis are not being treated due to the inability to procure Bicillin L-A® in the jurisdiction.
- Report any shortages to the Pfizer Supply Continuity Team at 844-646-4398 (select 1 and then select 3).

Visit the [CDC site](#) for more information regarding syphilis guidelines.
For information on preventative measures via DoxyPEP visit [here](#).