



Technical Bulletin

Division of Public and Behavioral Health



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Topic: Notice Regarding Bicillin L-A Shortage & Syphilis Treatment

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

Current Situation

The State of Nevada Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD) Prevention and Control Program has been notified that Pfizer, the sole manufacturer of Bicillin L-A® (penicillin G benzathine) in the United States, is experiencing a manufacturing delay of this product. This nationwide shortage of penicillin G benzathine is expected through July 2016. Penicillin G benzathine is the recommended treatment for syphilis, and the only recommended treatment for pregnant women infected or exposed to syphilis. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Division of STD Prevention (DSTDP) is working with the United States Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) Drug Shortage Staff, and Pfizer, to address this situation.

Recommendations

Take inventory and monitor your supply of Bicillin L-A. Continue to contact distributors to procure penicillin G benzathine, as appropriate. If product reaches a critical supply level of three weeks or less, then notify the Pfizer Supply Continuity Team at 844.804.4677 to inquire about an emergency supply and alert your local health department, or the State of Nevada STD Prevention and Control Program.

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.
- Encourage the adherence 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, to include patients living with HIV infection.

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 at this network address: <https://www.stdccn.org>. The CDC is not recommending any changes to treatment recommendations for patients with syphilis.

Should you need any assistance or need to report critical shortages that you are experiencing, please contact your local health department, or the State of Nevada STD Prevention and Control Program at 702-486-0484.

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/shortages/)

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

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