



NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE

Mary T. Bassett, MD MPH

Commissioner

**2018 Health Advisory #11:
Bicillin L-A (penicillin G benzathine) shortage resolved**

*To: Obstetrics/Gynecology, Internal Medicine, Family Medicine, Pediatrics, & Urgent Care providers.
Please distribute as appropriate.*

- **The US Food & Drug Administration (FDA) reported the Bicillin L-A (penicillin G benzathine) shortage resolved, with supply now available.**
- **Long-acting penicillin G benzathine is the first line therapy for syphilis, and the *only* treatment.**

June 13, 2018

Dear Colleagues,

In 2017, the NYC Health Department [issued a health advisory](#) regarding a shortage of Bicillin L-A (penicillin G benzathine) in the United States. On May 8, 2018, the US Food & Drug Administration (FDA) [declared the shortage to be over](#). Moving forward, health organizations and providers should resume the use of injectable penicillin G benzathine as first-line treatment for syphilis. Information on recommended syphilis treatment and clinical management can be found in the [CDC's 2015 STD Treatment Guidelines](#).

If your clinic/hospital/program routinely treats patients with syphilis, you should resume the use of penicillin G benzathine for syphilis patients. Please contact your suppliers to assure stock is replenished as needed. If obtaining penicillin G benzathine is a hardship for your practice or your patient, you should refer the patient (ideally, with a copy of syphilis test results in hand) to any of the 8 New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene Sexual Health Clinics for same-day syphilis treatment. The Sexual Health Clinics provide this and other sexual health services to anyone 12 years and older, regardless of immigration status or ability to pay. For more information on the Sexual Health Clinics, call 3-1-1 or visit <http://nyc.gov/health/clinics>.

For more information about Bicillin L-A (penicillin G benzathine) availability, visit the FDA's Drug Shortage Website: [https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/drugshortages/dsp_ActiveIngredientDetails.cfm?AI=Penicillin%20G%20Benzathine%20\(Bicillin%20L-A\)%20Injection&st=r](https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/drugshortages/dsp_ActiveIngredientDetails.cfm?AI=Penicillin%20G%20Benzathine%20(Bicillin%20L-A)%20Injection&st=r)

To report a drug shortage to the FDA, visit: <http://www.fda.gov/Drugs/DrugSafety/DrugShortages/ucm142398.htm>.

Sincerely,

Susan Blank, MD, MPH
Assistant Commissioner
Bureau of STD Control