



NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE

Mary T. Bassett, MD, MPH
Commissioner

2017 Health Advisory # 7: Bicillin-LA (Penicillin G benzathine) shortage continues

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

- **Pfizer projecting end of Bicillin-LA (penicillin G benzathine) shortage by the 4th Quarter of 2017**
- **Prioritize Bicillin-LA use for pregnant women infected or exposed to syphilis.**

March 30, 2017

Dear Colleagues,

This is an update regarding the recent manufacturing delays and subsequent shortage of Bicillin L-A (Penicillin G benzathine) in the United States. Pfizer, the sole manufacturer of Bicillin L-A (Penicillin G benzathine) in the United States, projects full resolution of this shortage by the 4th quarter 2017.

Until normal supplies of Penicillin G benzathine are ensured, it is critical to prioritize the use of Penicillin G benzathine for the treatment of syphilis especially in pregnant women infected with or exposed to syphilis. There are no acceptable alternatives for treating syphilis during pregnancy. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) [2015 STD Treatment Guidelines](#) outline the recommended regimens for syphilis along with alternative regimens.

If your clinic/ hospital / program routinely treats patients with syphilis and you are experiencing a critical shortage of Penicillin G benzathine, please contact the **Pfizer Supply Continuity team at 844.646.4398** to assist in obtaining a supply. 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: call 3-1-1 or <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/services/sexual-health-clinics.page> to learn more.

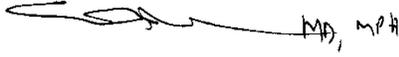
For more information about Bicillin L-A availability, visit the Food & Drug Administration's (FDA) Drug Shortage Website:

http://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/drugshortages/dsp_ActiveIngredientDetails.cfm?AI=Penicillin%20G%20Benzathine%20%28Bicillin%20L-A%29%20Injection&st=c&tab=tabs-1.

To report a drug shortage to the FDA, visit:

<http://www.fda.gov/Drugs/DrugSafety/DrugShortages/ucm142398.htm>.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Susan Blank', followed by the text 'MD, MPH'.

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