



Department of Health

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May 2016

TO: Local Health Department, Community Health Center, Urgent Care, Emergency Medicine, Family Medicine, Infectious Disease, Internal Medicine, Primary Care, Dermatology, and HIV Care

FROM: New York State Department of Health
Bureau of Sexually Transmitted Disease Prevention and Epidemiology

Health Advisory: Bicillin L-A Shortage

On April 29, 2016, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) reported a national shortage of Bicillin L-A (penicillin G benzathine suspension) due to manufacturing issues. Benzathine penicillin G is the recommended treatment for syphilis infections and is the only treatment option for pregnant women infected with or exposed to syphilis. The FDA is working with the manufacturer to promote product availability and continues to monitor the situation. More information about Bicillin L-A availability may be found at the 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.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) [2015 STD Treatment Guidelines](#) outline the recommended regimens for syphilis along with alternative regimens which are listed below. Treatment with alternative regimens must include close serologic and clinical follow up.

Primary and Secondary Syphilis

Doxycycline 100mg orally twice daily X 14 days **OR**
Tetracycline 500mg orally four times daily X 14 days

Latent Syphilis

Doxycycline 100mg orally twice daily X 28 days **OR**
Tetracycline 500mg orally four times daily X 28 days

Until normal supplies of Bicillin L-A are available, prioritize the use of Bicillin L-A for the treatment of syphilis especially in pregnant women infected with or exposed to syphilis.

Call the NYS Clinical Education Initiative's STD Center of Excellence at 866-637-2342 to access expert medical consultation on diagnosis, treatment and management of syphilis.

Please contact the NYSDOH Bureau of Sexually Transmitted Disease Prevention and Epidemiology at (518) 474-3598 for additional assistance.