

Health Update

Bicillin Shortage Update
July 22, 2024

SUMMARY POINTS

- The Bicillin shortage has resolved.
- Use Bicillin as first line therapy for all persons with syphilis in whom it is not a contraindication.

Over the past year the Philadelphia Department of Public Health (PDPH) has shared information about the nationwide shortage of penicillin G benzathine (Bicillin L-A), the first line recommended therapy for syphilis.

In June, Pfizer, the manufacturer of Bicillin, shared an update that there was adequate supply and subsequently the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) removed Bicillin from their shortage list.

Use Bicillin as first line therapy for all persons with syphilis for whom it is not contraindicated. Doxycycline should be reserved for non-pregnant patients who are allergic to penicillin or have a contraindication to an intramuscular (IM) injection.

Recommended Regimen for Primary and Secondary and Early Latent Syphilis

Benzathine penicillin (PCN) G (Bicillin L-A) 2.4 million units IM in a single dose

Recommended Regimen for Late Latent Syphilis

Benzathine PCN G (Bicillin L-A) 2.4 million units IM weekly for 3 weeks

For non-pregnant patients with PCN allergy or other contraindication to Bicillin therapy, doxycycline remains the alternative.

Providers should contact the STD Control Program at 215-685-6737 to:

- Report a case of syphilis
- Check the syphilis registry
- With any questions about syphilis treatment