

Health Advisory

Bicillin Shortage due to Recent Recall

July 22, 2025

SUMMARY POINTS

- Prioritize the use of Bicillin to treat pregnant people and babies with congenital syphilis.
- Providers who are having difficulty obtaining Bicillin for priority patients should contact the STD Control Program at 215-685-6737 to arrange for appropriate treatment.

On July 10, 2025, King Pharmaceuticals, a subsidiary of Pfizer, issued a [voluntary recall](#) of several lots of Penicillin G benzathine (Bicillin L-A®). The manufacturer is working to assess how this will affect availability nationwide, but shortages are anticipated. [Extencilline and Lentocilin](#) were approved by FDA for temporary importation due to prior shortages and remain available.

Recommendations:

- Review [this notification](#) from the CDC.
- Institutions should review their current levels of Bicillin inventory.
- Bicillin is the only recommended treatment for pregnant people infected with or exposed to syphilis.
- Doxycycline 100mg PO BID for two (2) weeks (for early syphilis) or four (4) weeks (for late latent or syphilis of unknown duration) should be used as an alternative for the treatment of nonpregnant people.
- Prioritize the use of Bicillin to treat pregnant people and babies with congenital syphilis.
- If inventory allows, use Bicillin, treat patients with primary and secondary syphilis who are unlikely to be adherent to oral regimen.

Notify the PDPH STD Control Program (215-685-6737) of any shortage or low inventories of Bicillin in your practice so we can continue to monitor this situation and provide situational awareness to CDC, FDA, and Pfizer. Providers who cannot obtain penicillin for priority patients should contact the STD Control Program at 215-685-6737 to arrange for appropriate treatment.