The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Executive Office of Health and Human Services

Department of Public Health

Bureau of Infectious Disease and Laboratory Sciences

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**Penicillin G Benzathine Injectable Suspension (Bicillin L-A®)**

**Recall and Anticipated Shortage in Massachusetts**

**July 17, 2025**

On July 10th 2025, Pfizer announced a voluntary recall of certain lots of penicillin G benzathine injectable suspension ([Bicillin® LA - URGENT: DRUG RECALL](https://www.pfizerhospitalus.com/sites/default/files/news_announcements/Bicillin%20Recall%20Letter.pdf)), due to particulates identified during visual inspection. [Pfizer anticipates a near-term stockout](https://www.pfizerhospitalus.com/sites/default/files/news_announcements/Bicillin%20Supply%20Update%20July%202025_0.pdf) for Bicillin® L-A 1.2 million Units/2 mL (600,000 units/mL) and 2.4 million Units/4 mL (600,000 units/mL) prefilled syringes. To date, Pfizer has not received reports of any adverse events associated with this issue.

DPH is monitoring the situation actively with the goal of maintaining sufficient statewide supply for treatment of syphilis, prioritizing pregnant individuals and infants, because injectable long- acting benzathine penicillin G is the only acceptable treatment for syphilis in pregnancy and infants exposed to syphilis.

**DPH recommends the following priority actions:**

* Review communication from Pfizer to assess if your medication lots are impacted: [Bicillin® LA URGENT: DRUG RECALL](https://www.pfizerhospitalus.com/sites/default/files/news_announcements/Bicillin%20Recall%20Letter.pdf).
* Assess your organizational supply, forecast your need, and reserve sufficient injectable long-acting benzathine penicillin G for pregnant individuals. Reach out to your distributors and to Pfizer directly, to state your need for additional medication if necessary.
* Evaluate organizational capacity to procure and dispense [Lentocilin© and Extencilline](https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/drugshortages/dsp_ActiveIngredientDetails.cfm?AI=Penicillin%20G%20Benzathine%20Injection&st=c), two alternative formulations that were approved by FDA for temporary importation due to prior shortages.
* Choose doxycycline for treatment of non-pregnant people with syphilis to help preserve injectable long-acting benzathine penicillin G supplies for pregnant patients and infectious partners. See [CDC’s treatment recommendations](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https:/t.emailupdates.cdc.gov/r/?id=h7de72422,197f3569,19808b43&e=QUNTVHJhY2tpbmdJRD1VU0NEQ05QSU5fMTIyLURNMTA5MjYzJkFDU1RyYWNraW5nTGFiZWw9Q2xpbmljYWwlMjBSZW1pbmRlcnMlMjBkdXJpbmclMjBCaWNpbGxpbiUyMEwtQSVDMiVBRSUyMFNob3J0YWdl&s=aZuKlarjjTa9_JDuhM2Xj_iZZEYNHFYcVk02Mmp0trM__;!!LhI-ubG4xQ!j4Vx6WqtEHi18K9r15PZAZJRTaVw29Wfkc2nc1yAtwwnc1ZgI0V9QX4KW5G2WQ0FNDaMujDx_KtF2IBGM9EcqXru4w9YG-c$) for more information.
* Institute systems-level approaches to steward the use of injectable long-acting benzathine penicillin G and encourage the use of alternative antimicrobials for other infectious diseases.
* Accurately stage syphilis infections to ensure appropriate dosing of antimicrobials. Clinicians with questions about syphilis clinical management should review the [CDC 2021 STI Treatment Guidelines](https://www.cdc.gov/std/treatment-guidelines/default.htm), or contact an infectious diseases specialist, the DPH Partner Services Line at 617-983-6999, or the National Network of STD Clinical Prevention Training Centers (NNPTC) [STD Clinical Consultation Network](https://www.stdccn.org/render/Public).
* **If you are unable to obtain injectable long-acting benzathine penicillin G to treat pregnant patients or their contacts,** contact DPH Partners Services and Reporting line at 617-983-6999to inquire about the Massachusetts Division of STD Prevention’s delivery program.