The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Executive Office of Health and Human Services

Department of Public Health

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Information on penicillin G benzathine (Bicillin L-A®) injectable suspension shortage

Original DPH Information July 2023

Updated May 2024

The FDA and CDC announced shortages of penicillin G benzathine (Bicillin L-A®) injectable suspension, citing an increased demand for this medication. Recovery of the national full supply is now not expected before the fourth quarter 2024. MDPH continues to monitor the situation actively and maintain sufficient supply for Massachusetts.

MDPH continues to recommend the following actions (these are unchanged from previous):

* Monitor your organizational supply and continue to contact distributors to procure Bicillin L-A. Place an order with your distributor even if the medication is listed as being on backorder. Distributors continue to fill whole or partial orders as medication is released to them by the manufacturer.
* **If you are unable to obtain Bicillin L-A® to treat patients with infectious syphilis or their contacts,** contact MPDH Partners Services and Reporting line at 617-983-6999to inquire about the Massachusetts Division of STD Prevention’s Bicillin L-A® Delivery program.
* Accurately stage syphilis infections to ensure appropriate dosing of antimicrobials. Early syphilis (primary, secondary, and early latent) requires a single dose of 2.4 million units of Bicillin L-A®.
* Clinicians with questions about syphilis clinical management should contact an Infectious Diseases specialist, the MDPH Partner Services Line (617-983-6999) or [the online National Network of STD Clinical Prevention Training Centers (NNPTC) STD Clinical Consultation Network](https://t.emailupdates.cdc.gov/r/?id=h7de72355,197f3569,19808b47&e=QUNTVHJhY2tpbmdJRD1VU0NEQ05QSU5fMTIyLURNMTA5MjYzJkFDU1RyYWNraW5nTGFiZWw9Q2xpbmljYWwlMjBSZW1pbmRlcnMlMjBkdXJpbmclMjBCaWNpbGxpbiUyMEwtQSVDMiVBRSUyMFNob3J0YWdl&s=oPOibWL9yA33xWA59duRc7FBhA4pZAcLE5mYIgk_s4M).

The information below was first posted on the FDA website on April 26, 2023 and updated in a CDC Dear Colleague Letter on July 20, 2023. Further details are available at: <https://www.cdc.gov/std/dstdp/dcl/2023-july-20-Mena-BicillinLA.htm>. Information will be updated routinely by the CDC and can be accessed [here](https://www.cdc.gov/std/treatment/drug-notices.htm).