



March 18, 2020

Dear STD Program Colleagues,

We have received a few inquiries about the availability of Penicillin G benzathine (Bicillin L-A®) and concerns of a possible shortage in the setting of the rapidly evolving COVID-19 pandemic.

We have been in close communication with the FDA and Pfizer and they have assured us that adequate supplies of Bicillin L-A® exist. They have been in communication with distributors regarding inventory levels and no issues have been identified. The FDA and Pfizer continue monitoring the situation very closely.

Although we do not currently have a documented Bicillin L-A® shortage, we encourage you to continue the following best practices:

1) Take inventory

- Monitor local supply of Bicillin L-A®
- Determine the local pattern of Bicillin L-A® use
- Continue to contact distributors to procure Bicillin L-A® as appropriate.

2) Bicillin L-A® remains the preferred treatment for syphilis. Use Bicillin L-A® in accordance with the 2015 CDC STD Treatment Guidelines.

- Encourage adherence to the recommended dosing regimen of 2.4 million units of Bicillin L-A® IM for the treatment of primary, secondary, and early latent syphilis (early syphilis). Additional doses to treat early syphilis do not enhance efficacy, including in patients living with HIV.

3) Communicate with DSTDP

- Notify your DSTDP project officer/prevention specialist and Dr. Roxanne Barrow (rrb6@cdc.gov) of any shortage or low inventories of Bicillin L-A® in your jurisdiction so CDC can continue to monitor this situation and provide situational awareness to FDA and Pfizer.

We will continue to be in touch as information becomes available.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Laura H. Bachmann MD, MPH".

Laura H. Bachmann, MD, MPH
Chief Medical Officer
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