

# Potential Access Challenges to Bicillin L-A

AS OF APRIL 17, 2023

The CDC has received reports that some STD programs are currently unable to procure enough penicillin G benzathine (Bicillin L-A®) – the first-line recommended treatment for syphilis - for their jurisdictions. The manufacturer anticipates the issue will be resolved in the next two months. In the meantime, they are working closely with CDC and FDA to address urgent requests.

During this time, programs should:

- Continue to follow [Sexually Transmitted Infections Treatment Guidelines, 2021](https://www.cdc.gov/std/treatment-guidelines/syphilis.htm) (<https://www.cdc.gov/std/treatment-guidelines/syphilis.htm>). Penicillin G benzathine (Bicillin L-A®) is the only recommended treatment for pregnant people infected or exposed to syphilis.
  - Doxycycline 100mg PO BID for 2 weeks (for early syphilis) or for 4 weeks (for late latent or syphilis of unknown duration) is an alternative for the treatment of non-pregnant people with a penicillin allergy.
- Prioritize the use of Bicillin L-A® to treat pregnant people and babies with congenital syphilis.
- Notify DSTDP ([stdshortages@cdc.gov](mailto:stdshortages@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.
- Report any shortages to the Pfizer Supply Continuity Team at 844-646-4398 (select 1 and then select 3).

CDC will update its [Drug Notices](https://www.cdc.gov/std/treatment/drug-notice.htm) (<https://www.cdc.gov/std/treatment/drug-notice.htm>) webpage as updates are available.