

Update: Bicillin L-A Shortage

JULY 2026

The anticipated recovery date for the Bicillin L-A® shortage has been moved to **fourth quarter of 2027**.

- Benzathine Penicillin G is the only recommended treatment for syphilis during pregnancy. Nonpregnant patients can be treated with doxycycline 100 mg PO twice daily for 14 days (for primary, secondary, and early latent syphilis) or 28 days (for late latent or syphilis of unknown duration).
- The only FDA-approved formulation of benzathine penicillin G in the U.S. is Bicillin L-A®, produced by King Pharmaceuticals LLC, a subsidiary of Pfizer, which has extended the next delivery of 1.2 million units/2 mL and 2.4 million units/4 mL pre-filled syringes of Bicillin L-A® to wholesalers to October 2026.
- CDC recommends preserving benzathine penicillin G for treating patients during pregnancy.
- Some experts estimate supply is currently approximately 25% of market demand which may allow prioritization for those who are pregnant, infants, those with contraindications to doxycycline, those who need Bicillin L-A® for acute rheumatic fever prevention, and for partners of those who are pregnant.
- MDH, the metro health care coalition, and statewide health systems and STI providers are continuing to meet monthly to assess our supply statewide, implement a statewide prioritization framework, and facilitate exchange or redistribution of supply statewide.
- MDH allocation framework for Bicillin L-A® during shortage can be found at [Bicillin L-A® Recall and Anticipated Shortage \(PDF\) \(https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/syphilis/hcp/bicillin.pdf\)](https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/syphilis/hcp/bicillin.pdf).

Bicillin L-A to prevent congenital syphilis

- MDH recommends sites continue contacting distributors to procure Bicillin L-A®, as appropriate.
- If Bicillin L-A® is needed during pregnancy or for infants and the distributor has no supply, contact Pfizer to request product through their Medical Request Process: [Bicillin L-A Medical Request Form \(https://www.pfizerhospitalus.com/bicillinla-medical-request-form\)](https://www.pfizerhospitalus.com/bicillinla-medical-request-form). Alert your wholesaler to this order.
- **For sites with Bicillin L-A® supply with upcoming expiration date, contact MDH to consider exchange or redistribution of supply within the state, as appropriate.**
- **If Bicillin L-A® is needed during pregnancy or for an infant and your site does not have any current supply, call MDH at 651-201-5414.**

Lentocilin (benzathine benzylpenicillin)

- FDA has approved temporary importation of Lentocilin units through CostPlus.
- Lentocilin is considered pharmacologically equivalent to Bicillin L-A® (benzathine penicillin G).
 - Cost is currently approximately \$60 per adult dose (two units of lentocilin is equivalent to 2.4 million units of Bicillin L-A®).
 - Lentocilin is a lower-cost option for non-340b entities.
 - Lentocilin has been implemented at sites in Minnesota and nationally and is well tolerated. However, there are some differences in implementation and administration as described in detail in [Lentocilin® Information for Clinicians \(https://courses.nnptc.org/resource.php?id=2718\)](https://courses.nnptc.org/resource.php?id=2718).
- [NNPTC National Webinar on the Bicillin L-A Shortage and Implementing Lentocilin \(https://vimeo.com/1190177788\)](https://vimeo.com/1190177788)

For further information on syphilis treatment and the Bicillin L-A® shortage, refer to [Syphilis Information for Health Professionals \(www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/syphilis/hcp/index.html\)](http://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/syphilis/hcp/index.html) or call MDH at (651) 201-4024 with questions on Bicillin L-A®, lentocilin, alternative syphilis treatment, screening, diagnosis, partner Services, or to report reactive syphilis test results.

Resources

- [Bicillin L-A® Recall and Anticipated Shortage \(https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/syphilis/hcp/bicillin.pdf\)](https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/syphilis/hcp/bicillin.pdf)
- [CDC: Updates on Bicillin L-A Shortage \(https://www.cdc.gov/nchhstp/whats-new/bicillin-updates.html\)](https://www.cdc.gov/nchhstp/whats-new/bicillin-updates.html)
- [FDA Drug Shortages \(https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/drugshortages/dsp_ActiveIngredientDetails.cfm?AI=Penicillin%20G%20Benzathine%20Injection&st=c\)](https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/drugshortages/dsp_ActiveIngredientDetails.cfm?AI=Penicillin%20G%20Benzathine%20Injection&st=c)
- [Pfizer Update on Bicillin L-A \(https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/drugsatfda_docs/appletter/2025/BicillinLAAvailabilityUpdateCustomerLetter.pdf\)](https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/drugsatfda_docs/appletter/2025/BicillinLAAvailabilityUpdateCustomerLetter.pdf)

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To obtain this information in a different format, call: 651-201-5414.