



Public Health Advisory

07/17/2025

Urgent Recall and National Shortage of Bicillin L-A® (Penicillin G Benzathine)

SITUATIONAL AWARENESS SUMMARY

Situation: On July 10, 2025, Pfizer, the manufacturer of Bicillin L-A® (penicillin G benzathine), issued a [voluntary nationwide recall](#) of specific lot numbers due to the presence of particulates identified during visual inspection of prefilled syringes.

This recall includes both dosing preparations:

- 1.2 million units/2mL
- 2.4 million units/4mL

Affected lots were distributed between December 11, 2023, and June 24, 2025.

As a result, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has confirmed an impending national shortage of Bicillin L-A®, significantly impacting treatment protocols, especially for syphilis in pregnancy, where Bicillin L-A® is the only recommended option.

Southern Nevada Health District Recommendations for Healthcare Providers:

1) **Immediately Assess Your Supply.**

- a) Check your inventory for affected Bicillin L-A® lot numbers.
- b) Discontinue use of recalled lots immediately.
- c) Track and monitor remaining Bicillin L-A® supply.

Note: Pfizer is transitioning to a [medical request process](#) during this anticipated shortage.

2) **Prioritize and Strategize Treatment.**

- a) Bicillin L-A® is
 - i) the only recommended treatment for syphilis in pregnancy.
 - ii) the first-line recommended treatment for primary, secondary, early and late latent syphilis.Alternative treatment with doxycycline is an option.
- b) Bicillin C-R® and penicillin V are not acceptable alternatives for syphilis treatment.
- c) Consider prioritizing treatment of syphilis in pregnant persons, infants, and persons with an allergy to doxycycline.
- d) Consider alternative therapy to treat conditions that may have alternative antibiotic options such as group A strep pharyngitis.

3) **Follow current [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Sexually Transmitted Infections Treatment Guidelines](#) to appropriately stage syphilis patients and maximize supply.**

- a) Primary, Secondary, and Early Latent Syphilis
 - i) Bicillin 2.4 million units IM x1 dose
 - ii) Alternative: Doxycycline 100 mg BID x 14 days
- b) Late Latent Syphilis
 - i) Recommended: Bicillin 2.4 million units IM weekly x3
 - ii) Alternative: Doxycycline 100 mg BID x 28 days

4) **Consider [Extencilline](#) and [Lentocilin](#) as acceptable alternative treatment for syphilis.** They were approved by the FDA for temporary importation due to prior shortages and remain available.

5) **Communicate supply issues by contacting SNHD at (702)-759-1300.**

6) **Report:** Syphilis is a nationally notifiable disease. Ensure timely reporting to SNHD Disease Surveillance and Control via Phone 702-759-1300 or Fax 702-759-1414.

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Southern Nevada Health District

Health Alert: conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.

Health Advisory: provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.

Health Update: provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.

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