



Public Health Update

04/09/2026

Penicillin G Benzathine (Bicillin® L-A) Shortage Continues

SITUATIONAL AWARENESS SUMMARY

Situation: Since July 2025, there has been a [national shortage of long-acting penicillin G benzathine injectable](#) (Bicillin® L-A). Pfizer, the manufacturer of Bicillin® L-A, has extended the shortage with estimated supply recovery in Quarter 4 of 2026, with periodic release of limited quantities to distributors until then. The next anticipated release of Bicillin® L-A 1.2 MU and 2.4 MU prefilled syringes is July 2026, and December 2026 for 600,000-unit prefilled syringes.

- Bicillin® L-A is the only recommended treatment for syphilis during pregnancy.
- In 2023, Nevada ranked 10th in primary and secondary syphilis rates and 6th for congenital syphilis rates in the country.

SNHD urges providers to:

1. Prioritize and Strategize Treatment:

- a) Bicillin® L-A is the:
 - i) only recommended treatment for syphilis in pregnancy.
 - ii) first-line recommended treatment for primary, secondary, early latent syphilis with Bicillin® L-A 2.4 million units IM x1 dose, and late latent syphilis with Bicillin® L-A 2.4 million units IM weekly x3 doses.
- 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** when possible:
 - i) Doxycycline 100 mg orally twice daily x 14 days for primary, secondary, and early latent syphilis.
 - ii) Doxycycline 100 mg orally twice daily x 28 days for late latent syphilis.
 - iii) Other conditions, such as group A strep pharyngitis, may also have alternative antibiotic options.
 - iv) [Lentocilin® \(benzathine benzylpenicillin tetrahydrate\)](#) has been approved for temporary importation by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

2. Stage syphilis accurately to maximize supply as primary, secondary, and early latent syphilis is treated with one dose of Bicillin® L-A 2.4 million units IM.

- a) Conduct a thorough physical exam and include syphilis in your differential diagnosis:
 - i) Primary syphilis can have hidden painless ulcerations and lesions in the mouth, anus, or vagina.
 - ii) Secondary syphilis can have skin, oral, and anogenital lesions such as a palmar/plantar rash, mucus patches, condylomata lata (which may look similar to genital warts), and a non-specific full body rash (which may mimic a drug reaction).
- b) If no signs are present on exam, determine the likelihood of early latent syphilis staging by:
 - i) Reviewing history of symptoms and sexual partner exposures in the past year.
 - ii) Comparing prior syphilis serologic tests to determine if new seroconversion or a sustained four-fold increase in titers occurred within the past 12 months.
- c) Resources for appropriate staging of syphilis can be found at the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Sexually Transmitted Infections Treatment Guidelines](#), the [National STD Curriculum](#), and at [New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene Bureau of Sexually Transmitted Infections/New York City STD Prevention Training Center](#).

3. Communicate supply issues

- a) **Contact SNHD at (702) 759-0727.**

4. Report: Syphilis is a nationally notifiable disease. Ensure timely reporting to SNHD Division of Disease Surveillance and Control via Phone (702) 759-0727, Fax (702) 759-1454, or online at:

<https://www.southernnevadahealthdistrict.org/news-info/reportable-diseases/reportable-diseases-form/>

Cassius Lockett, PhD, MS

District Health Officer

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

280 South Decatur Boulevard, Las Vegas, NV 89107 • Phone (702) 759-1000 • www.snhd.info