



STATE OF MICHIGAN

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
LANSING

ELIZABETH HERTEL
DIRECTOR

May 8, 2023

Dear Colleague:

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services purchases and maintains an inventory of drugs used for the treatment of sexually transmitted infections (STI). These medications are distributed to covered entities including local health department (LHD) STI and STI Specialty Services sites at no cost.

This letter is to update you on the current situation regarding Bicillin L-A (penicillin G benzathine) used for the treatment of syphilis. Pfizer, the sole manufacturer of Bicillin L-A in the United States, continues to experience shortages due to increased demand and an insufficient supply for typical ordering. We have a small inventory in our warehouse; however, it is unclear when we will be able to order again. Until normal quantities are available, please provide syphilis treatment according to the following recommendations:

- Pregnant persons, females of childbearing age, and symptomatic males should be treated with the CDC recommended dosing regimen of penicillin G benzathine IM based on their syphilis diagnoses.
- Clients with a tetracycline allergy should be treated with the CDC recommended dosing regimen of penicillin G benzathine IM.
- Consider treating asymptomatic males with the alternative regimen (doxycycline) as clinically indicated.
- Treat all syphilis contacts who are not pregnant or do not have a tetracycline allergy with doxycycline (100mg. orally 2x/day for 14 days).

Please bear in mind, additional doses of penicillin G benzathine IM to treat early syphilis do not enhance efficacy, including in patients living with HIV infection. Please reach out to the local Disease Intervention Specialist (DIS) as a resource if there are questions regarding a client's staging or diagnosis.

For information on challenges in accessing Bicillin L-A, please refer to the CDC STD website: <https://www.cdc.gov/std/treatment-guidelines/syphilis.htm>.

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We apologize for any inconvenience this situation will cause and we will update you when we have additional information. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding in this matter.

If you have questions regarding STI medications, please contact Dan Lowery at loweryd@michigan.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'NB', followed by a horizontal line.

Natasha Bagdasarian, MD, MPH, FIDSA
Chief Medical Executive

NB:dl