

## Potential Access Challenges to Bicillin L-A®

North Dakota Health & Human Services (HHS) is sharing information that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has received reports of providers being currently unable to procure enough penicillin G benzathine (Bicillin L-A®) – the first-line recommended treatment for syphilis. The manufacturer anticipates the issue will be resolved in the next two (2) months. In the meantime, they are working closely with CDC and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to address urgent requests.

During this time, providers should:

- Continue to follow [CDC's treatment recommendations](#). Penicillin G benzathine (Bicillin L-A®) is the **only recommended treatment** for pregnant people infected or exposed to syphilis.
- Doxycycline 100mg PO BID for two (2) weeks (for early syphilis) or four (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 HHS ([disease@nd.gov](mailto:disease@nd.gov)) of any shortage or low inventories of Bicillin L-A® in your practice so we can continue to monitor this situation and provide situational awareness to CDC, FDA and Pfizer.

CDC will update its [Drug Notices](#) webpage as updates are available.

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### Categories of Health Alert Network messages:

**Health Alert** Requires immediate action or attention; highest level of importance

**Health Advisory** May not require immediate action; provides important information for a specific incident or situation

**Health Update** Unlikely to require immediate action; provides updated information regarding an incident or situation

**HAN Info Service** Does not require immediate action; provides general public health information

##This message was distributed to state and local health officers, state and local epidemiologists, state and local laboratory directors, public information officers, HAN coordinators, and clinician organizations##