



San Mateo County Health System

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PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY– June 13, 2016

BENZATHINE PENICILLIN G SHORTAGE

Situational update

Pfizer, the sole manufacturer of Bicillin® L-A, has announced a temporary shortage of Bicillin® L-A (penicillin G benzathine suspension.) The shortage is expected to resolve by July 2016.

Penicillin G benzathine is the recommended treatment for syphilis and the only recommended treatment for pregnant women infected or exposed to syphilis.

Actions requested of clinicians:

1. Prioritize benzathine penicillin G (Bicillin L-A) for pregnant women with syphilis infection or exposure, as well as non-pregnant early syphilis patients with primary, secondary or early latent syphilis.
2. Conserve Bicillin L-A by using alternative drugs to treat group A strep pharyngitis and for primary rheumatic fever prophylaxis.
3. Alternatives to Bicillin L-A for non-pregnant adults with syphilis are available in the 2015 CDC treatment guidelines: cdc.gov/std/tg2015/default.htm.
4. Please contact the San Mateo County STD/HIV Program with questions at 650.573.2346.

San Mateo County STD Clinic hours and services available at smchealth.org/std.

Additional Resources

California Department of Public Health. Bicillin L-A Shortage letter. May 25, 2016. Available at: <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/std/Documents/CDPH-letter-Bicillin-shortage-20160525.pdf>

US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Drug Shortages:

[http://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/drugshortages/dsp_ActiveIngredientDetails.cfm?AI=Penicillin%20G%20Benzathine%20\(Bicillin%20L-A\)%20Injection&st=c&tab=tabs-1](http://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/drugshortages/dsp_ActiveIngredientDetails.cfm?AI=Penicillin%20G%20Benzathine%20(Bicillin%20L-A)%20Injection&st=c&tab=tabs-1)

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