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.
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](http://smchealth.org/std).

Additional Resources


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