

Nationwide Pfizer Recall and Subsequent Stockout of Penicillin G Benzathine (Bicillin L-A®)

DATE:	July 18, 2025
TO:	Health Alert Network
FROM:	Debra L. Bogen, M.D., FAAP, Secretary of Health
SUBJECT:	Nationwide Pfizer Recall and Subsequent Stockout of Penicillin G Benzathine (Bicillin L-A®)
DISTRIBUTION:	Statewide
LOCATION:	N/A
STREET ADDRESS:	N/A
COUNTY:	N/A
MUNICIPALITY:	N/A
ZIP CODE:	N/A

This transmission is a “Health Advisory” which provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.

HOSPITALS: PLEASE SHARE WITH ALL MEDICAL, PEDIATRIC, NURSING AND LABORATORY STAFF IN YOUR HOSPITAL; **EMS COUNCILS:** PLEASE DISTRIBUTE AS APPROPRIATE; **FQHCs:** PLEASE DISTRIBUTE AS APPROPRIATE **LOCAL HEALTH JURISDICTIONS:** PLEASE DISTRIBUTE AS APPROPRIATE; **PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS:** PLEASE DISTRIBUTE TO YOUR MEMBERSHIP; **LONG-TERM CARE FACILITIES:** PLEASE SHARE WITH ALL MEDICAL, INFECTION CONTROL, AND NURSING STAFF IN YOUR FACILITY

Summary

- The Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH) was notified by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Pfizer Pharmaceuticals that there is a nationwide voluntary recall and subsequent near-term stockout of Benzathine Penicillin G (Bicillin L-A®)—see chart below for recalled lot numbers.
- Providers should prioritize the use of Bicillin L-A® for those individuals who are diagnosed with or suspected of having syphilis **and** who are pregnant or have HIV.
- Providers should use Doxycycline 100mg PO BID for two (2) weeks (for early syphilis) or four (4) weeks (for late latent syphilis or syphilis of unknown duration) as the alternative treatment for nonpregnant people and individuals who do not have HIV.
- Providers who are having difficulty obtaining Bicillin L-A® for prioritized patients should contact the DOH, STD Program at (717) 787-3981 to arrange for appropriate treatment.

Current Situation

The Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH), STD Program was notified by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) that there is currently a nationwide recall and near-term stockout of Benzathine Penicillin G (Bicillin L-A®). For additional information on this national shortage, please go to [Pfizer Bicillin LA Stockout](#).

King Pharmaceuticals LLC., a subsidiary of Pfizer, is voluntarily recalling lots of Bicillin® L-A (Penicillin G Benzathine Injectable Suspension). Pfizer initiated this recall due to particulates identified during visual inspection. Pfizer completed a Health Hazard Assessment which indicated that the potential

risk to patients from use of the impacted product is medium. To date, Pfizer has not received reports of any adverse events associated with this issue.

The affected product lots were distributed from December 11, 2023, through June 24, 2025. Please check your stock immediately against the table below. If you have any of the affected lots in your inventory, please discontinue use, stop distribution and quarantine the product immediately. Instructions for return are here: [Pfizer Bicillin Recall Information](#)

Carton NDC	Syringe NDC	Lot Number	Expiration Date YYMMDD	Strength	Configuration/ Count
60793-701-10	60793-701-02	GL2954	270131	1,200,000 units/ 2 mL	10 (2 mL) syringes per carton, 24 cartons per shipping case
		HP6222	270131		
		HP6228	271031		
		HP6232	270930		
		HR9967	270531		
		HJ3235	260930		
60793-702-10	60793-702-04	GT2598	260930	2,400,000 units/ 4 mL	10 (4 mL) syringes per carton, 24 cartons per shipping case
		GT2599	260930		
		HR9969	270430		
		HK2909	270228		
		HR9984	270831		

Treatment Recommendations

- In response to the nationwide stockout, DOH is requesting that all medical providers limit the use of Benzathine Penicillin G (Bicillin L-A®) to the following individuals:
 - Newly diagnosed pregnant individuals with a confirmed positive test for syphilis.
 - Pregnant individuals who require preventive treatment due to exposure to a known syphilis case within the last 90 days.
 - Individuals newly diagnosed with syphilis who also have HIV.
 - If inventory allows, treat patients with primary and secondary syphilis who are unlikely to be adherent to an oral regimen.
 - Parenteral Benzathine penicillin G is the only therapy with documented efficacy that is safe to use during pregnancy. Pregnant individuals with syphilis in any stage who are penicillin allergic should be desensitized and treated with Benzathine penicillin.
- Until this nationwide stockout is resolved, DOH is recommending that all other individuals who are diagnosed or exposed to syphilis be treated based on the following 2021 CDC Alternative Treatment Recommendation [Syphilis - STI Treatment Guidelines \(cdc.gov\)](#):
 - Primary, Secondary, or Early Latent Syphilis (<1 year): 100 mg Doxycycline BID X 14 Days
 - Latent Syphilis (>1 year): 100 mg Doxycycline BID X 28 Days
- Providers who are having difficulty obtaining Benzathine penicillin G (Bicillin L-A®) for priority patients should contact PA DOH at (717) 787-3981 to arrange for appropriate treatment.

Patient Follow-up

- Patients receiving the alternative Doxycycline treatment are recommended to have a clinical and serologic evaluation performed at 3, 6, and 12 months after treatment; more frequent evaluation might be prudent if follow-up is uncertain or if repeat infection is a concern.
- Serologic response (i.e., titer) should be compared with the titer at the time of treatment. However, assessing serologic response to treatment can be difficult, and definitive criteria for cure or failure

are not well established. In addition, nontreponemal test titers might decline more slowly for persons previously treated for syphilis.

Management of Sex Partners

- Persons who had sexual contact with a person who receives a diagnosis of primary, secondary, or early latent syphilis <90 days before the diagnosis, should be treated presumptively for early syphilis, even if serologic test results are negative or unknown.
- Persons who had sexual contact with a person who receives a diagnosis of primary, secondary, or early latent syphilis >90 days before the diagnosis, should be treated presumptively for early syphilis if serologic test results are not immediately available and the opportunity for follow-up is uncertain.
 - If serologic tests are negative, no treatment is needed.
 - If serologic tests are positive, treatment should be based on clinical and serologic evaluation and syphilis stage.
- Long-term sex partners of persons who have late latent syphilis should be evaluated clinically and serologically for syphilis and treated based on the findings.

Reporting Requirements

DOH requires all providers and laboratories to electronically report all diseases, infections and conditions listed in 28 Pa. Code Chapter 27, Subchapter B (relating to reporting of diseases, infections, and conditions) through its electronic disease surveillance system, PA-NEDSS. Reporting requirements are that providers report the diagnosis of and treatments for STD cases. Providers not registered for PA-NEDSS can do so by contacting the PA-NEDSS Security Officer by email at RA-DHnedssacctreq@pa.gov or by phone at 717-783-9171.

Additional Information

For up-to-date information on the Benzathine Penicillin G (Bicillin L-A®) shortage, providers are encouraged to review the following information online at: <https://www.cdc.gov/std/treatment/drug-notices.htm>

Additional information on syphilis testing and treatment for pregnant individuals can be found online at: [Clinical Guidance for STIs | STI | CDC](#)

Physicians needing additional information should call the following number:

Pennsylvania Department of Health
Bureau of Communicable Diseases
Division of TB/STD
STD Program
(717) 787-3981

8:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M

Individuals interested in receiving further PA-HANs are encouraged to register at HAN Notification Registration (mir3.com)

Categories of Health Alert messages:

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.

This information is current as of July 18, 2025 but may be modified in the future. We will continue to post updated information regarding the most common questions about this subject.