



PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION
HIV/STD/TB Section

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TO: Oregon Health Officers & STD Program
Managers and Administrators

FROM: Sean Schafer, MD MPH, HIV/STD/TB Medical Director

RE: Status on Availability of Bicillin L-A to Treat Syphilis

In late May, Local Health Officers and STD Program Managers were sent an advisory about the limited availability locally and nationally of Bicillin L-A (procaine G benzathine injectable suspension). Bicillin L-A is the preferred treatment for syphilis (primary, secondary, early latent, and late latent) and the only treatment recommended for pregnant women infected with or exposed to syphilis. At that time, we requested that Bicillin L-A be used by health departments only to treat priority cases of syphilis:

a) pregnant patients, b) male sex partners of pregnant patients, c) cases of infectious syphilis (primary, secondary, early latent).

At present, although the FDA is still reporting overall manufacturing delays and shortages of Bicillin L-A across North America, we have been able to consistently procure level supplies of Bicillin L-A from our local distributor. **As a result, non-priority clients with syphilis (e.g. those with asymptomatic latent syphilis) may again be treated with Bicillin L-A made available through our program, in addition to all priority cases.**

The STD Program will continue to closely monitor the availability of Bicillin L-A with our supplier and we will notify you of any changes that may impact the supply of Bicillin L-A available for local public health departments.

Further information on treatment options for syphilis can be found in the CDC's 2015 STD Treatment Guidelines available at: <http://www.cdc.gov/std/tg2015/syphilis.htm>.

Thank you for your commitment to STD prevention in Oregon.