



# Durham Region Health Department FAX about...

For Health Care Professionals



## Shortage of Benzathine Penicillin G

There is currently a national shortage of Benzathine Penicillin G (Bicillin® L-A) 1,200,000 IU/2mL, which is a **preferred treatment for syphilis** and supplied to Ontario by Pfizer, the only Canadian vendor. This Tier 3 shortage is expected to last until at least February 16, 2026. More information can be found [here](#).

### Actions Requested

- During the shortage, health care providers (HCPs) are recommended to restrict the use of Bicillin® L-A and use alternative treatments for syphilis as per the Public Health Agency of Canada's (PHAC) [Interim Syphilis Treatment Guidelines in the Event of a Benzathine Penicillin G Shortage](#).
- The use of Bicillin® L-A should be restricted to:
  - Pregnant individuals (all stages) and their ongoing sexual contact(s). Note that infectious syphilis (primary, secondary, and early latent) only requires one dose of 2.4 million units of Bicillin® L-A, including during pregnancy.
  - Infectious cases (primary, secondary and early latent syphilis), regardless of HIV status, if adherence to alternative treatment and follow-up is uncertain.
- During the shortage, oral doxycycline is the preferred treatment for initiating therapy in non-pregnant adult patients with late latent, latent of unknown duration, or tertiary syphilis that does not involve the central nervous system.
- Non-pregnant adults who have already initiated their treatment course with Bicillin® L-A should complete their therapy with Bicillin® L-A according to standard guidelines.

### Resources

- Refer to [PHAC's Syphilis guide](#), which has information on screening, staging, treatment and follow up serologic testing.
- HCPs may order publicly funded medications for the treatment of chlamydia, gonorrhoea, and syphilis infections. Please visit [STI Medications Order Form](#) (or [durham.ca/hcp](http://durham.ca/hcp), then Forms, and Order) for more information.

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905-668-2020 or 1-800-841-2729 | [durham.ca/health](http://durham.ca/health)

If you require this information in an accessible format, contact 1-800-841-2729.

