



Durham Region Health Department **FAX about...**

For Health Care Professionals



Ongoing Bicillin® L-A Shortage and Use of Lentocilin® in Adults

The [national shortage](#) of Bicillin® L-A 1.2 million units (mu)/2mL, the preferred treatment for syphilis, is ongoing. Given the medical necessity of the drug, Health Canada has authorized the temporary importation of Lentocilin® 1.2 mu /4mL by Septa Pharmaceuticals Inc., to mitigate the shortage.

Lentocilin® has the same active ingredient (penicillin G benzathine [benzathine benzylpenicillin]), strength (1.2 mu), and route of administration (intramuscular [IM]) as Bicillin® L-A, but has a different formulation, dosage form, reconstitution requirement, and presentation. Refer to the [summary of product characteristics](#) for more details.

Lentocilin® is prioritized for **pregnant individuals, sexual partners of pregnant individuals and infectious cases where adherence to treatment and follow up is uncertain.**

Actions Requested

- Continue to use alternative treatments for syphilis as per the Public Health Agency of Canada's (PHAC) [Guidance in the Event of Shortage of Benzathine Penicillin G Long-Acting](#).
- Prioritize Lentocilin® for **pregnant individuals, sexual partners of pregnant individuals, and infectious cases where adherence to treatment and follow-up is uncertain.**

About Lentocilin ®

- Lentocilin® is supplied as a prepackaged box consisting of a vial containing 1.2 mu as a white powder and a glass ampoule containing 4mL lidocaine hydrochloride 1.5% for reconstitution. Each vial = 4 mL after reconstitution. Refer to [video by Septalife](#) for more information on reconstituting Lentocilin®.
- Store Lentocilin® at room temperature in its original package to protect from light and moisture and use immediately after reconstitution.
- Lentocilin® contains soy phospholipids and may cause hypersensitivity reactions in patients with a history of allergy to soybeans. It's contraindicated in patients with previous hypersensitivity reactions to penicillins, cephalosporins and other beta-lactam antibiotics.
- Lidocaine is contraindicated in patients with hypersensitivity to lidocaine, its inactive ingredients, or other local anesthetics of the amide-type.

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905-668-2020 or 1-800-841-2729 | durham.ca/health

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



Administration of Lentocilin® for Adults

- Each vial of reconstituted Lentocilin® should be administered as a separate IM injection to bilateral ventrogluteal site. Injection into smaller muscles increases the risk of abscess and injection near nerves is considerably more painful and may cause permanent nerve damage.
- Use a minimum 18-gauge hypodermic needle for administration. Do not use a blunt filter needle for the injection. If the needle gets blocked, replace it with a new needle.
- **A complete dose of 2.4 mu/8mL requires two syringes, each containing 1.2 mu/4mL of Lentocilin®**

Resources

- HCPs may order Lentocilin® for the treatment of syphilis infections, and other publicly funded medications for the treatment of chlamydia and gonorrhea. Please visit [STI Medications Order Form](#) (or durham.ca/hcp, then Forms, and Order) for more information.
- Refer to [PHAC's communication](#) on the importation of Portuguese-authorized Lentocillin S 1200.
- Refer to [PHAC's Syphilis guide](#), which has information on screening, staging, treatment and follow up serologic testing.
- For questions, please contact Durham Health Connection Line at 905-668-2020 or 1-800-841-2729.

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