



**Health, Seniors and Long-Term Care**

**Public Health**

300 Carlton Street

Winnipeg, Manitoba Canada R3B 3M9

February 27, 2026

**Re: Update - Shortage of long-acting penicillin G (Bicillin® L-A) for syphilis treatment**

Dear Health Care Provider:

The national shortage of long-acting benzathine penicillin G (Bicillin® L-A) **has been extended with an estimated end date of April 3, 2026**. It is possible that this date will be extended further. Information is available at: <https://healthproductshortages.ca/shortage/273071>.

**Healthcare providers should use the following strict eligibility criteria for long-acting (L-A) benzathine penicillin G, revised since the last update:**

1. Pregnant individuals with any stage of syphilis infection (without neurological involvement)
  - Note: during the shortage, for pregnant individuals with primary, secondary or early latent syphilis one dose of 2.4 million units IM is recommended.
2. Ongoing sexual contacts of pregnant individuals.
3. Pregnant sexual contacts (within 90 days) of infectious cases of syphilis.

Unless specified above, there is no change to the recommended number of L-A benzathine penicillin G doses.

**All other individuals (cases and sexual contacts) should be preferentially treated with doxycycline or ceftriaxone and ensure follow-up occurs.**

**Effective immediately, all orders for long-acting benzathine penicillin G should be submitted to Taché Pharmacy AND a separate email sent to [STBBI@gov.mb.ca](mailto:STBBI@gov.mb.ca) for approval.** The email should have “Bicillin order approval” in the subject line and include confirmation that the doses will be used according to the above eligibility criteria. Orders will not be shipped from Taché Pharmacy unless this separate email is received and approved.

As the remaining Bicillin® L-A stock may not be sufficient for treatment of the above described clients during the shortage, a limited amount of alternative product has been procured under a Health Canada authorized temporary import: Lentocilin S 1200®, (Benzathine Benzylpenicillin Tetrahydrate) powder and diluent for suspension for injection 1,200,000 international units, manufactured and marketed in Portugal by Laboratórios Atral S.A. Additional information is available at: <https://recalls-rappels.canada.ca/en/alert-recall/importation-portuguese-authorized-lentocilin-s-1200-1-200-000-iu-4-ml-due-current>. Specific information about Lentocilin S® will be provided prior to distributing this product to health care providers in Manitoba.

If you have excess stock of Bicillin® L-A onsite that you do not expect to use prior to expiry, please consider contacting your local public health office ([www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/offices.html](http://www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/offices.html)) to arrange for transfer of product to them.

An update will be provided if there is any new information or when the shortage is resolved. Until then, assume that the shortage is ongoing. If you have any questions about the supply of long-acting benzathine penicillin G in Manitoba, please email [STBBI@gov.mb.ca](mailto:STBBI@gov.mb.ca).

Please share this information with all relevant colleagues in your facility.

Sincerely,

*“Original signed by”*

Richard Baydack, PhD  
Executive Director  
Communicable Disease Prevention and Control

*“Original signed by”*

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Medical Officer of Health  
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