



Date: April 16, 2026
Re: Bicillin® L-A National Shortage Update – Syphilis Treatment

Dear Colleagues,

The shortage of Bicillin® L-A in Canada continues. Pfizer Canada has advised that this shortage is expected to persist until end of May 2026 due to supply chain disruptions. This memorandum is provided as a situational update.

The BCCDC Pharmacy continues to have stock and is monitoring orders closely; supply is tight but manageable. Based on the May 2026 estimate, we do not anticipate an absolute shortage of penicillin, though further delays may change this. Clinics are asked to place small, incremental orders to help us preserve existing stock. Options for urgent deliveries can be arranged if necessary.

To support conservation of Bicillin® L-A, Health Canada has approved the exceptional, temporary importation of Lentocilin S 1200, a Portuguese-authorized product that has the same active ingredient, strength (1 200 000 International Units), and route of administration (intramuscular) as Bicillin® L-A, though there are differences in its formulation. BCCDC Pharmacy has placed an initial order for Lentocilin S which is currently being piloted at the BCCDC STI Clinic. Client and provider feedback is being collected to ensure workflows are reasonable and appropriate. Resources to support reconstitution and administration are in development should its use need to be expanded to other sites. Lentocilin S is not being used to fulfil STI medication orders at this time.

As syphilis staging and management occur centrally through the BCCDC STI Clinic, STI physicians will advise if a conservation strategy is appropriate on a case by case basis. Oral doxycycline remains an acceptable alternative when treatment and follow-up are expected to be reliable, in alignment with PHAC's guidance: [Interim Syphilis Treatment Guidelines in the event of a Benzathine Penicillin G L-A Shortage - Canada.ca](https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/guidelines/interim-syphilis-treatment-guidelines-in-the-event-of-a-benzathine-penicillin-g-l-a-shortage-canada-ca). These measures do not represent a change in practice. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the BCCDC STI Clinic for consultation. There are no changes recommended for individuals who are already in the process of treatment; clients who have started a Bicillin® L-A series will continue with the same regimen.

We are actively monitoring and ensuring the province is well placed to continue to manage all stages of syphilis appropriately for all clients. We are engaging with high volume sites and beginning work to ensure they are prepared to use Lentocilin S if needed. Should the shortage continue or supply conditions change,

BCCDC will provide communication regarding any measures required to further conserve Bicillin® L-A or to expand the use of Lentocilin S to other sites.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'KB', with a stylized flourish at the end.

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BC Centre for Disease Control