



To: CAHAN San Diego Participants

Date: February 26, 2026

From: Public Health Services

Health Advisory Update #5: Update on Bicillin® L-A (penicillin G benzathine injectable suspension) Shortage

Key Messages

- Pfizer recently updated the estimated recovery of the Bicillin® L-A shortage to the 4th Quarter of 2026.
- Healthcare providers should continue to prioritize long-acting penicillin-based treatments such as Bicillin® L-A and Lentocilin® for the treatment of pregnant people with syphilis and infants exposed to syphilis in utero.
- Extencilline® is no longer available for distribution in the United States.
- Oral doxycycline is an acceptable alternative treatment for non-pregnant adults with most stages of syphilis. Additional alternative medications have limited data supporting their use for treatment of syphilis.

Situation and Background

This advisory provides updates about the ongoing shortage of Bicillin® L-A (penicillin G benzathine injectable suspension) that was previously reported on [July 16, 2025](#). On January 21, 2026, Pfizer released an [availability update](#) for Bicillin® L-A pre-filled syringes and estimated full recovery from the shortage in Quarter 4 of 2026. Bicillin® L-A prefilled syringes remain on allocation at the wholesaler level, with next deliveries estimated for July 2026 for 1.2 million Units/2 mL (600,000 units/mL) and 2.4 million Units/4 mL (600,000 units/mL) Prefilled Syringes and December 2026 for Pediatric 600,000 Units/mL Prefilled Syringes. Imported [Lentocilin®](#) remains available, is safe to use in pregnancy, and should be administered following [standard protocols for treatment of syphilis in pregnancy](#). As of January 5, 2026, Extencilline® is no longer available. **For further details, and for a summary of alternative syphilis treatment options for non-pregnant persons, please see the [California Department of Public Health update](#) released on February 23, 2026.**

Actions Recommended

1. **Prioritize** use of Bicillin® L-A and Lentocilin® for pregnant people with syphilis infection or exposure, infants exposed to syphilis in utero, and patients with contraindications to doxycycline (e.g., anaphylaxis, hemolytic anemia, Stevens Johnson syndrome).
2. **Use** doxycycline or other alternative agents to treat non-pregnant adults with syphilis infection (excluding neurosyphilis, ocular syphilis, and otosyphilis) or exposure.
3. **Contact** the HIV, STD, and Hepatitis Branch if you are having trouble obtaining Bicillin L-A® or Lentocilin® by calling (619) 692-8501. For clinical questions related to treatment of syphilis, call (619) 609-3245. Both numbers are monitored Monday through Friday from 8:00am to 5:00pm, excluding County holidays.

CAHAN San Diego

County of San Diego Health & Human Services Agency

HIV, STD, and Hepatitis Branch

Phone (for providers, M-F 8AM-5PM): (619) 692-8501 (lab/treatment histories and staging/treatment recommendations), (619) 609-3245 (clinical consultations for challenging cases); Fax: (619) 692-8541

E-mail: cahan@sdcounty.ca.gov

Secure Website: <http://cahan.ca.gov>

Public Website: <http://www.cahansandiego.com>