



To: CAHAN San Diego Participants

Date: June 15, 2023

From: Public Health Services

Health Advisory Update #2: Bicillin® L-A Shortage

- The County of San Diego HIV, STD, and Hepatitis Branch (HSHB) previously alerted providers of a national shortage of **long-acting penicillin G benzathine (Bicillin® L-A)**; the shortage continues, with **current estimates for a recovery timeframe in the second quarter (Q2) of 2024**.
- HSHB continues to recommend prioritization of Bicillin® L-A to treat pregnant women and infants exposed to syphilis, as well as cases or contacts with allergy or other contraindications to doxycycline.

Situation and Background

On April 25, 2023, the County of San Diego released a health advisory informing providers of a **national shortage of long-acting penicillin G benzathine (Bicillin® L-A)** and providing recommendations for prioritization of the medication to maximize supply. While the shortage was initially projected to resolve within two months, **current estimates are for a recovery timeframe in the second quarter (Q2) of 2024**.

Actions Recommended

Given the continued increases in overall syphilis morbidity and congenital syphilis in the region, the County of San Diego continues to recommend prioritization of Bicillin® L-A to treat: 1) pregnant people, who are infected with or exposed to syphilis, and their sexual partners; 2) infants exposed to syphilis *in utero*; and 3) syphilis cases, or contacts to syphilis, with allergy or other contraindication to doxycycline. For questions regarding clinical management of syphilis and/or to report supply issues, please contact the HIV, STD, and Hepatitis Branch of the Public Health Services department in the County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency (see [April 25, 2023 health advisory](#) for contact information).

Resources

- [Health Advisory: Potential Access Challenges to Bicillin® L-A \(CAHAN San Diego\) – April 25, 2023](#)
- [Health Advisory: Bicillin® L-A \(Benzathine Penicillin G\) Shortage \(California Department of Public Health\) – June 1, 2023](#)
- [U.S. Food and Drug Administration Drug Shortage Webpage – Bicillin® L-A](#)
- [Sexually Transmitted Infections Treatment Guidelines, 2021 \(Centers for Disease Control and Prevention\)](#)

Thank you for your participation.

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

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

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