

Penicillin G Benzathine (Bicillin® L-A) IM Injectable Shortage:

Situation:

Penicillin G benzathine (Bicillin® L-A) is on national shortage with an anticipated resolution in 2024. Bicillin® L-A 2.4 million units (MU) is the recommended, first line treatment for syphilis and the only recommended treatment for syphilis in pregnancy.

Background:

- 1.2 and 2.4 MU syringes are expected to have intermittent releases although there may be periods of reduced supply.
- 600,000 unit syringes are on critical shortage with resolution anticipated in April 2024.

Assessment:

- Bicillin® L-A will be restricted to:
 1. Treatment of syphilis in adults and infants/children:
 - Conserve first line options for primary, secondary, tertiary, early and latent syphilis.
 - Conserve the only option for pregnant patients exposed to or diagnosed with syphilis.
 2. Severe autism with PO refusal
- Clinicians should pursue alternative oral options for patients with streptococcal pharyngitis or rheumatic fever during this time of shortage.

Recommendations:

- An LMA will be placed on all Bicillin® L-A orders.

Alternative Selection

Alternative Recommended

You selected:

penicillin G benzathine (BICILLIN-LA) 1.2 Million Units injection 2 mL: 1.2 Million Units, intraMUSCULAR, Once, today at 1245, For 1 dose FOR DEEP INTRAMUSCULAR INJECTION ONLY. Dorsogluteal or ventrogluteal muscle is recommended for deep IM administration. DO NOT administer in deltoid. Pharmacist may adjust the dose according to the patient's renal function per the Pharmacist Antimicrobial Renal Dose Adjustment Protocol: Yes

Details

Penicillin G benzathine injection on national shortage and supply is limited.


Please restrict ordering to the following indications:


1. Syphilis treatment
2. Severe autism with PO refusal

If no appropriate clinical alternative exists, please submit Nonformulary RedCap for consideration (<https://redcap.vanderbilt.edu/surveys/?s=7RCPCJ8EWX>). For regional hospitals, please contact a pharmacist for non-formulary use and approval.

Clinicians should pursue alternative oral options for patients with streptococcal pharyngitis or rheumatic fever during this time of shortage.

Reason:  

 Continue

 Remove Order

- An order attestation will also be added to confirm Bicillin® L-A for syphilis, severe autism with PO refusal, or approved via the nonformulary process.

Contact Adult/Pediatric Infectious Disease for suitable alternatives that may not be straightforward.