



## Health, Seniors and Active Living

Public Health and Primary Health Care Division  
Communicable Disease Control  
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June 3, 2016

Dear Health Care Provider:

**Re: Update on Usage of Benzathine Penicillin (Bicillin) for the Management of Syphilis During National Shortage**

Manitoba Health, Seniors and Active Living (MHSAL) is continuing to monitor the national shortage of benzathine penicillin (Bicillin), that is expected to last until at least July 2016. MHSAL has been able to acquire sufficient stock of Bicillin to expand the use of the Bicillin to provide the best possible treatment option during the current outbreak of syphilis in Manitoba.

At this time, MHSAL is recommending the following people be eligible for treatment with Bicillin:

- Pregnant individuals who are a contact of syphilis or diagnosed with primary, secondary, early latent or late latent syphilis
- All cases and contacts of infectious syphilis (primary, secondary or early latent).

Bicillin should **not** be used to treat cases of late latent syphilis. Those clients should be treated with one of the following alternative regimens (see the provincial syphilis protocol) until after the Bicillin supply chain is restored.

- Doxycycline 100mg BID X28 days (first choice), or
- Ceftriaxone 1-2g IM daily for 10-14 days for primary or secondary syphilis
- Treatment with Azithromycin is **not** recommended

Please refrain from ordering excess stock. All orders for Bicillin will be subject to review by MHSAL before being shipped.

There is no change to the recommended management for tertiary, congenital and neurosyphilis (see provincial syphilis protocol).

MHSAL will continue to update health care providers as new information is made available. In the event that the timeline of the shortage is extended or supplies become depleted further restriction on use will be implemented.

If you have any questions, please contact MHSAL at 204-788-6737

Sincerely,

Thank you.

*"Original signed by"*

Richard Baydack, PhD  
Director  
Communicable Disease Control

*"Original signed by"*

Joss Reimer, MD FRCPC  
Medical Officer of Health  
Communicable Disease Control