



Health, Seniors and Long-Term Care
Public Health
300 Carlton Street
Winnipeg, Manitoba Canada R3B 3M9

January 14, 2026

Re: Update - Shortage of long-acting penicillin G (Bicillin® L-A) for syphilis treatment

Dear Health Care Provider:

The national shortage of long-acting penicillin G (Bicillin® L-A) **has been extended to January 30, 2026**. Information is available at: www.drugshortagescanada.ca/shortage/273071.

Effective immediately, healthcare providers should use the following strict eligibility criteria for Bicillin® L-A:

1. Pregnant individuals with any stage of syphilis infection (not involving the CNS)
 - Note: during the shortage, for pregnant individuals with primary, secondary or early latent syphilis one dose of Bicillin® L-A 2.4 million units IM is recommended.
2. Infectious cases (primary, secondary and early latent), regardless of HIV status, if high likelihood of poor adherence to treatment and follow-up is uncertain.
3. Sexual contacts of pregnant individuals.
4. Sexual contacts (within 90 days) of infectious cases of syphilis if pregnant.

Unless specified above, there is no change to the recommended number of Bicillin® L-A doses.

All other individuals (cases and sexual contacts) should be preferentially treated with doxycycline or ceftriaxone and ensure follow-up occurs.

All STI treatments (including alternative regimens) can be ordered using the Manitoba STI Medication Order Form at: <https://www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/protocol/form11.pdf>.

We request that sites avoid ordering more Bicillin® L-A before January 30th unless supply is insufficient for treatment. New orders will be evaluated by the Communicable Disease Prevention and Control Branch on a case-by-case basis to conserve supply during the shortage.

An update will be provided if the shortage is extended or when it is resolved. If you have any questions about the supply of Bicillin® L-A in Manitoba, please email CDPC@gov.mb.ca.

Please share this information with all relevant colleagues in your facility.

Sincerely,

“Original signed by”

“Original signed by”

Richard Baydack, PhD
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