

FMOLHS Drug Shortage Memo

To: All Providers

From: Pharmacy Department

Date: 6/13/2023

Drug Affected: Penicillin G benzathine (Bicillin LA) and penicillin G benzathine & G procaine (Bicillin CR)

Dear Providers,

Currently, there is a nationwide shortage of penicillin G benzathine and penicillin G benzathine/procaine due to an increase in demand combined with only having one supplier. At OLOLRMC, we have a very limited stock, and the estimated recovery date from the manufacturer is 2024.

Penicillin G benzathine is the drug of choice for syphilis. Other common indications for use include the treatment of pharyngitis. Penicillin G benzathine and G procaine is not commonly used in adults.

Please consider these alternative options for adults while penicillin G benzathine is on shortage:

	Penicillin G benzathine (Bicillin LA)
Recommendation with limited stock	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reserve for syphilis • Pharyngitis alternative of amoxicillin or cephalexin for 10 days
Recommendation with no available stock	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reserve remaining for confirmed syphilis in pregnant patients <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Consider an ID consult if no penicillin G benzathine is available to treat syphilis in patients with HIV or who are pregnant • Alternative syphilis treatment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Early syphilis: doxycycline 100 mg PO BID for two weeks ○ Late/Latent/Unknown duration: doxycycline 100 mg PO BID for four weeks • Pharyngitis alternative of amoxicillin 500 mg PO BID or cephalexin 500 mg PO BID for 10 days

For more information on the shortage, please visit: [Drug Shortage Detail: Penicillin G Benzathine \(ashp.org\)](https://www.ashp.org/drug-shortage-detail/penicillin-g-benzathine)

For any questions/concerns, please contact:

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