

May 17, 2016

Attention: Physicians, Nurse Practitioners, Hospitals: Emergency Rooms and Infection Control, Walk-In Clinics, Correctional Facilities

RE: AVAILABILITY OF BICILLIN

The Health Unit was notified by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) in late April 2016 that due to production delays at Pfizer Canada, there will be a national shortage of Bicillin (pre-loaded syringes of Benzathine Penicillin G). Additional quantities are expected to be available in July 2016.

It is anticipated that Ontario's current supply will meet expected demand until additional quantities of Bicillin become available in July. When necessary, Health Care Providers are encouraged to continue to access publicly funded Bicillin through their local Health Unit.

However the MOHLTC, in collaboration with Public Health Ontario, has developed the attached *Interim Guidance on the Management of Syphilis Cases in Ontario During Bicillin Production Delay* document, should additional measures be required. Please also see the Public Health Agency of Canada- *Canadian Guidelines on Sexually transmitted Infections* chapter on syphilis (chapter 5) for more information on the treatment of syphilis.

Should you have any questions, please contact contact Shawn Woods Manager, Sexual Health Services, at 905-885-9100 ext. 1290, or 1-866-888-4577 ext. 1290.

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