

July 28, 2016

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

RE: AVAILABILITY OF BICILLIN - UPDATE

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 would be a national shortage of Bicillin (pre-loaded syringes of Benzathine Penicillin G). The ministry has now been informed that this production delay is concluded.

In response to the production delay, the ministry, in collaboration with Public Health Ontario, developed the *Interim Guidance on the Management of Syphilis Cases in Ontario During Bicillin Production Delay* document. As the production delay is now over, the recommendations provided in this document can be considered rescinded. Through conservative use of Bicillin, in conjunction with careful monitoring of inventory at the Ontario Government Pharmaceutical and Medical Supply Service (OGPMSS), Ontario's supply of Bicillin L-A lasted for the duration of the production delay.

Please see the Public health agency of Canada's *Canadian guidelines on Sexually Transmitted Infections* chapter on syphilis (<http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/std-mts/sti-its/cgsti-ldcits/section-5-10-eng.php>) for information on the treatment of syphilis.

If you have any questions about the treatment of syphilis, please do not hesitate to contact the Sexual Health Nurses in the Communicable Disease Control, Epidemiology and Evaluation Department.

Haliburton
705-457-1391

Lindsay
705-324-3569

Port Hope
905-885-9100

After Hours
1-888-255-7839