

**HEALTH ALERT NETWORK | HEALTH ADVISORY | January 30, 2026**

## **Update Bicillin® Recall Information for North Dakota**

### **Background**

On July 10, 2025, Pfizer Pharmaceuticals sent a [letter](#) to key individuals and organizations regarding a recall of Bicillin® L-A (Penicillin G Benzathine Injectable Suspension). On January 21, 2026, Pfizer Pharmaceuticals provided an updated [letter](#) to alert clinicians of additional delays with product fulfillment now expected during fourth quarter of 2026.

The North Dakota Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Division of Disease Control and Forensic Pathology (DCFP) is continuing to monitor the impact of this recall and resulting shortage on access to effective syphilis treatment.

### **Key Facts and Recommendations**

HHS is actively monitoring the situation with the goal of maintaining sufficient statewide supply for treatment of syphilis, prioritizing pregnant individuals and infants. Injectable long-acting benzathine penicillin G remains the *only* recommended treatment for syphilis during pregnancy and for infants exposed to syphilis. Therefore, these patients should be prioritized for treatment.

HHS continues to recommend the following priority actions:

- Review communication from Pfizer to assess if your current inventory is affected: [Bicillin® LA URGENT: DRUG RECALL](#).
- Assess your organizational supply, forecast your need, and reserve sufficient injectable long-acting benzathine penicillin G for priority patients. Reach out to your distributors and to Pfizer directly to state your need for additional medication, if necessary.
- Evaluate organizational capacity to purchase and dispense [Lentocilin©](#) and [Extencilline](#), two alternative formulations that were approved by U.S. FDA for temporary importation because of prior shortages.

- Choose doxycycline for treatment of non-pregnant people with syphilis to help preserve injectable long-acting benzathine penicillin G supplies for pregnant patients and infectious partners. Doxycycline can be given at a dose of 100mg orally two times a day for two weeks (for early syphilis) or for four weeks (for late latent syphilis or latent syphilis of unknown duration) See [CDC's treatment recommendations](#) for more information. Individuals treated with doxycycline should have a test of cure at 3 and 6 months.
- Institute systems-level approaches to steward the use of injectable long-acting benzathine penicillin G and encourage the use of alternative antimicrobials for other infectious diseases.
- Accurately stage syphilis infections to ensure appropriate dosing of antimicrobials. Clinicians with questions about syphilis clinical management should review the [CDC 2021 STI Treatment Guidelines](#), or contact an infectious diseases specialist, HHS DCFP at 701-328-2378, or the National Network of STD Clinical Prevention Training Center (NNPTC) [STD Clinical Consultation Network](#).
- If you cannot get injectable long-acting benzathine penicillin G to treat pregnant patients or neonates, contact the HHS DCFP at 701-328-2378.
- For more information regarding syphilis in your jurisdiction, please visit [Data | Health and Human Services North Dakota](#).