



NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE
Mary T. Bassett, MD, MPH
Commissioner

**2016 DOHMH ADVISORY # 9:
Bicillin-LA (benzathine penicillin G) shortage**

Please share with your colleagues in Obstetrics/Gynecology, Internal Medicine, Family Medicine, Pediatrics and Urgent Care.

- **Shortages of Bicillin-LA (benzathine penicillin G) reported nationally and expected to resolve by July 2016.**
- **Providers should prioritize treatment of pregnant women infected or exposed to syphilis.**

May 4, 2016

Dear Colleagues,

Long-acting benzathine penicillin G is the standard treatment for patients infected with syphilis and the only treatment for syphilis-infected pregnant women. Due to the limited availability of this medication, we advise providers to prioritize treatment of pregnant women infected or exposed to syphilis. Additional information on this drug shortage can be found on the CDC's website at <http://www.cdc.gov/std/treatment/drugnotices/bicillinshortage.htm> and on the FDA's website at

http://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/drugshortages/dsp_ActiveIngredientDetails.cfm?AI=Penicillin%20G%20Benzathine%20%28Bicillin%20L-A%29%20Injection&st=c&tab=tabs-1.

Providers should continue to report all drug shortages. Information on reporting drug shortages is available at <http://www.fda.gov/Drugs/DrugSafety/DrugShortages/ucm142398.htm>.

Sincerely,

Susan Blank, MD, MPH
Assistant Commissioner
Bureau of STD Control