

Public Health Alert

Syphilis Treatment - Benzathine Penicillin G-LA (Bicillin® L-A)

ATTENTION: EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT STAFF, PHARMACY

As per the [Canadian STI Guidelines](#), the following constitutes the first-line treatment for syphilis:

- Primary, Secondary and Early Latent: **Long-acting Benzathine Penicillin G (Bicillin® L-A)** 2.4 million units intramuscular as a single dose.
- Late Latent and Tertiary: Three (3) weekly doses of **Long-acting Benzathine Penicillin G (Bicillin® L-A)** 2.4 million units IM.

Bicillin® L-A comes in pre-filled syringes (as pictured). Each pre-filled syringe contains 1.2 million units of medication. A complete dose requires TWO syringes administered IM bilaterally to the left and right ventrogluteal (preferred) muscle or dorsogluteal muscle.

Penicillin G sodium and other types of short-acting or controlled-release penicillins are not effective in treating syphilis.

Bicillin® L-A can be ordered through Public Health. An order form for Bicillin® L-A and other free publicly funded STI medications is attached to this email and also available on our [website](#). Also attached are a *Syphilis Treatment Info Sheet* and [STI Treatment Reference Guide](#).



Bicillin® L-A Pre-filled Syringes (2x 1.2million units)

Grey Bruce Public Health encourages Emergency Departments to order and keep at least one dose of **Bicillin® L-A** on hand to assist in facilitating the timely treatment of syphilis. Patients who did not receive the appropriate treatment should be contacted for retreatment.

Thank you,

Sexual Health Team

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A healthier future for all.