



**BC Centre for Disease Control**  
An agency of the Provincial Health Services Authority

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**Date:** May 4, 2016 **Administrative Circular:** 2016:05

**ATTN:** Medical Health Officers and Branch Offices  
Public Health Nursing Administrators and Assistant Administrators  
Holders of Communicable Disease Control Manuals

**RE:** **Revisions to the Communicable Disease Control Manual – Chapter 5  
Sexually Transmitted Infections**

## **BACKGROUND**

The Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) is aware of a national benzathine penicillin G (Bicillin L-A) shortage which is expected to last until July 2016. Interim treatment recommendations have been issued to conserve Bicillin L-A through the use of alternative treatment wherever feasible. These recommendations are intended for use during the Bicillin L-A shortage only and until further notice.

The interim guidelines were circulated broadly by the BCCDC STI Clinic Medical Lead (Dr. Troy Grennan) on April 25, 2016. These guidelines have been added to Chapter 5 of the BCCDC CD Manual. They may differ from the preferred and alternative treatment recommendations outlined in Chapter 5 of the BCCDC CD Manual (e.g., the [British Columbia Treatment Guidelines: Sexually Transmitted Infections in Adolescents and Adults - 2014](#) for primary care physicians and nurse practitioners and the [BCCDC Non-certified practice Syphilis Decision Support Tool](#) for registered nurses).

**PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING CHANGE: BCCDC Communicable Disease Control Manual – Chapter 5: Sexually Infections:**

**(1) Included: [Interim Syphilis Treatment Guidelines during the Benzathine Penicillin G \(Bicillin L-A\) shortage 2016](#)**

**Note:** The guideline recommends that Bicillin L-A treatment be restricted to:

- Pregnant patients diagnosed with syphilis
- Sexual contacts of infectious cases if pregnant **OR** adherence to treatment follow up is uncertain

Please review the interim guideline for further direction on alternate treatment for cases of infectious syphilis and for sexual contacts to an infectious case.

If you have questions regarding these practice changes, please contact Troy Grennan, Physician Lead, Provincial HIV/STI Program, Clinical Prevention Services BCCDC ([Troy.grennan@bccdc.ca](mailto:Troy.grennan@bccdc.ca)) 604-707-5606 or Cheryl Prescott, Senior Practice Lead, Clinical Prevention Services, BCCDC at 604-707-5651 or [Cheryl.Prescott@bccdc.ca](mailto:Cheryl.Prescott@bccdc.ca).

Sincerely,



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