

MedStar Family Choice Maryland HealthChoice

**URGENT UPDATE RELATED TO CRITICAL SHORTAGE – PENICILLAN G
BENZATHINE (BICILLIN®) EARLIEST EXPECTED RECOVERY QUARTER 2 OF
2024 PER PFIZER**

July 24, 2023 – MedStar Family Choice in partnership with the Maryland Department of Health urges all providers to review this critical alert related to a forecasted shortage for select Bicillin® L-A (penicillin G benzathine injectable suspension) and Bicillin® C-R (penicillin G benzathine and penicillin G procaine injectable suspension) Prefilled Syringes as described by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA). This shortage is not due to recover until sometime in Quarter 2 of 2024 at the earliest based on a letter issued by Pfizer.

Given the severity of the shortage, please make every effort to ensure Bicillin® supplies are prioritized for pregnant persons and for infants exposed to syphilis in utero. Any provider serving pregnant members may consult their local health departments where the member resides for additional assistance to ensure necessary treatment is obtained as well.

Please see the attached communication from the Maryland Department of Health for additional details around the treatment considerations for syphilis treatment during the drug shortage.

This communication also identifies how to report drug shortages and additional resources to consult during these times of these specific drug shortages.