



MEMO

TO: Nurse Managers (NMs) and Community Health Nurses (CHNs) of First Nations Communities in South Central Saskatchewan

FROM: Dr. Ibrahim Khan, Medical Health Officer
Indigenous Services Canada, Saskatchewan Region

DATE ISSUED: April 1, 2026 until further notice

RE: **Bicillin L- A Shortage – Use of Lentocilin S 1200 for Syphilis Treatment**

FILE: Section 5, behind FNIHB tab, Saskatchewan CDC Manual

Background

- On December 15, 2025 the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) reported a long-acting penicillin G (Bicillin® L-A) shortage that was expected to last a few weeks. This shortage has now been extended into May of 2026. The shortage is due to a disruption in the manufacturing of the drug.
- The Ministry of Health expects to reach and hold their Bicillin reserve (150 syringes) the week of April 7, 2026. Once the Bicillin reserve is met, Lentocilin S 1200 will be shipped out to community as an replacement treatment.

Purpose

- On February 18, 2026, to mitigate the shortage, Health Canada approved the temporary use of a Portuguese product, Lentocilin S 1200, for the treatment of Syphilis.

Temporary Treatment of Syphilis

Brand Name	Medication	Route	Strength	Syphilis Treatment Dose	Form	Diluent
Lentocilin S 1200	Benzathine benzylpenicillin tetrahydrate	Deep IM	1 200 000 IU / 4 mL (per vial)	2 400 000 IU / 8 mL (Use 2 vials)	White Powder	1.5% lidocaine hydrochloride

Directions

- Lentocilin S 1200 should be stored at ambient temperature, between 0°C and 25°C. DO NOT FREEZE.
- Lentocilin S 1200 comes in a powder form that needs to be reconstituted with the supplied 1.5% lidocaine hydrochloride;
 - When reconstituting, draw up 4 mL of the lidocaine with a filtered 18 g needle and inject the lidocaine diluent into the side of the glass vial – NOT directly into the powder.
 - Gently rotate vial between hands for 20 to 60 seconds, or until all powder is dissolved and a viscous suspension remains. Do not shake.
 - Once reconstituted, the suspension should be drawn up and administered immediately.
 - Draw up entire contents of each vial into separate syringes with 18g blunt needle. NOTE: This may mean the total volume per syringe is greater than 4mL. Discard blunt needle and replace with regular 18g needle.
 - [Bicillin-L-A Shortage - How to Reconstitute Lentocilin S - YouTube](#)





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3. Lentocilin is administered via deep Intramuscular (IM) injection using a regular 18g needle.
 - Z-track method is recommended to minimize skin irritation, causes less pain and prevents the medication from leaking into the surrounding tissue.
 - Administer **deep IM injection** into the dorsogluteal or ventrogluteal sites for adolescents and adults.
 - **AVOID the deltoid** as it is not considered a deep IM site and the maximum volume is only 2mL.
 - Avoid intravenous, intraarterial, subcutaneous route, into/near peripheral nerve or blood vessels. Therefore, **aspirate** before injecting the suspension and observe for blood entering the syringe.
 - Each injection should be made slowly, with constant pressure to prevent blockage. It can be given simultaneously by 2 providers or by 2 injections by same provider.

4. Allergy alerts and precautions
 - Lentocilin S 1200 contains penicillin – assess for allergy to penicillin and connect with Regional Office if any concerns.
 - Lentocilin S 1200 also contains lecithin, a soy phospholipid - assess for allergy to soybeans.
 - This products diluent is 1.5% lidocaine hydrochloride, so make sure the patient is not allergic to lidocaine or similar anesthetics before using it.
 - Lidocaine hydrochloride should be used with **caution** in specific populations, including those with cardiovascular, hepatic or renal dysfunction, inflammation and/or infection at the injection site and patients on concomitant central nervous system depressant drugs. If a client has any of these health concerns, consult Regional Office.
 - Any case of serious side effect(s) should be reported to Health Canada.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Regional Communicable Disease Coordinator, Valerie Skiba at 639-560-4532.

Medical Health Officer
Indigenous Services Canada
Saskatchewan Region, Health Canada

References:

1. Government of Canada [Internet]. Importation of Portuguese-authorized Lentocilin S 1200 1 200 000 / 4 mL, due to the current shortage of Canadian-authorized Bicillin L-A 1 200 000 IU / 2 mL; 2026 Mar 3 [cited 2026 Mar 25]. Available from <https://recalls-rappels.canada.ca/en/alert-recall/importation-portuguese-authorized-lentocilin-s-1200-1-200-000-iu-4-ml-due-current>
2. [HPRC Penicillin-G-Benzathine English Final-HC-review-2026-03-02.pdf](#)
3. Saskatchewan Health Authority. CS-XX-XXXX – Lentocilin S IM Administration – Syphilis Treatment (2026)
4. Saskatchewan Health Authority. CS XX-XXXX – Lentocilin S 1200 QA – Syphilis Treatment. (2026)
5. Saskatchewan Immunization Manual. (May 2025) Chapter 8 – Administration of Biological Products

