

**Bicillin® L-A**  
**(Sterile penicillin G benzathine suspension)**

**SHIPPING INSERT<sup>1</sup>**

Bicillin® L-A (sterile penicillin G benzathine suspension) is a long-acting depot penicillin which gives a treponemicidal level of penicillin in the blood for approximately 10 days when given in a dose of 2.4 million units (mu) IM. This is administered as 1.2 mu into each buttock.

The 2.4 mu dose is usually considered to be adequate therapy for primary, secondary, and latent syphilis of under one year in duration.

For latent syphilis of over one year in duration (or of unknown duration) the duration of treponemicidal penicillin in the blood should be longer (at least 3 weeks). This is achieved by giving 2.4 mu IM weekly x 3 to a total of 7.2 mu. Ideally this should be given at exactly 7 day intervals.

In infrequent instances we have accepted that the interval between injections be as short as 5 days or as long as 10 days. Theoretically this seems reasonable but this variation is to be used only if absolutely necessary as there are no data to support how this affects the efficacy of this regimen.

**If you have any questions or need further information, please contact your doctor or:**

BC Centre for Disease Control  
STI/HIV Prevention and Control  
655 West 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Vancouver BC V5Z 4R4

**(604) 660-6161**

02/98

REF:144

<sup>1</sup> Please note - The treatment of syphilis is a complex matter and the above information is given as a summary and is an oversimplification, especially if HIV is involved. The question of lumbar puncture must be considered in patients with latent syphilis of over one year in duration (or of unknown duration). It is advised that you consult this division if you have not already done so.

