

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

On behalf of the Division of STD Prevention

Procaine Penicillin G IM is one of the recommended treatments for congenital syphilis and an alternative treatment for both neurosyphilis and ocular syphilis. The other recommended treatment for congenital syphilis is aqueous crystalline penicillin G IV. Pfizer, the sole manufacturer of this product in the United States, is experiencing manufacturing delays. CDC is continuing to work with FDA's Drug Shortage Staff and Pfizer to address this situation.

If Procaine Penicillin G is unavailable and until normal quantities of Procaine Penicillin G is available, CDC suggests using other available and recommended regimens of penicillin to treat congenital syphilis as outlined in the [2015 STD Treatment Guidelines](#):

Proven or highly probable congenital syphilis

Recommended Regimen

Aqueous crystalline penicillin G 100,000–150,000 units/kg/day, administered as 50,000 units/kg/dose IV every 12 hours during the first 7 days of life and every 8 hours thereafter for a total of 10 days

Possible Congenital Syphilis

Recommended Regimens

Aqueous crystalline penicillin G 100,000–150,000 units/kg/day, administered as 50,000 units/kg/dose IV every 12 hours during the first 7 days of life and every 8 hours thereafter for a total of 10 days

OR

Benzathine penicillin G 50,000 units/kg/dose IM in a single dose

Questions about syphilis clinical management can be directed to a specialist or the on-line National Network of STD Clinical Prevention Training Centers (NNPTC) STD Clinical Consultation Network (<https://www.stdccn.org>). More information on recommended congenital syphilis, neurosyphilis, or ocular syphilis treatment and clinical management can be found in the [2015 STD Treatment Guidelines](#). CDC is not recommending any changes to these treatment recommendations for patients with syphilis.

Additional information on the availability of Procaine Penicillin G can be found at <http://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/drugshortages/default.cfm>

If you have any questions about the Procaine Penicillin G shortage, contact your state or local health department's STD Prevention Program. Please share this guidance with other healthcare providers and pharmacists.