

Oregon Health Authority STD Prevention Program Bicillin Access Program—Procedure and Expectations

BACKGROUND:

Local public health authorities (LPHAs) can order benzathine G penicillin (Bicillin) from the OHA STD Program and distribute it to community providers through the Bicillin Access Program. The Bicillin Access Program was created in 2019 to increase availability of Bicillin in Oregon since many sites, such as private clinics, drug treatment centers, and jails, are unable to purchase or stock Bicillin.

ORDERING:

1. Use the STD Program's online [drug order form](#) to order Bicillin.
2. Bicillin is packaged 10 syringes (5 doses) to a box. Order quantities are by box. This reduces shipping expenses, packaging waste, and use of staff resources.
3. Always keep at least four syringes (2 doses) of STD Program Bicillin on hand for distribution. This helps avoid the need to place an urgent order when a community provider requests Bicillin.

DISTRIBUTING:

1. **Only STD Program Bicillin can be distributed to community providers (340B-priced Bicillin should not be distributed).** See below for guidance on LPHA use of Bicillin based on STD drug supplier (summarized in table):
 - LPHAs that order all drugs from the STD Program for LPHA clinic use should use this Bicillin for both LPHA patients and for community provider distribution.
 - LPHAs that order 340B-priced STD drugs directly from a supplier for LPHA clinic use must use 340B-priced Bicillin for LPHA patients and STD Program Bicillin for community provider distribution.
 - LPHAs that do not provide treatment can order STD Program Bicillin for community provider distribution.
2. For community sites that treat many patients with syphilis, distribute enough Bicillin for multiple doses/patients. There is no limit on the number of syringes that can be distributed to a site at one time. When deciding how much to provide at once, keep in mind the expiration date and a site's monthly number of syphilis cases.
3. Distribution does not require that LPHAs travel to community providers. LPHA staff may deliver Bicillin to community partners if convenient but other options should be pursued to reduce the burden on LPHAs, including arranging for community providers to pick up Bicillin from the LPHA or transferring the Bicillin at a mutually convenient location.

Table 1. Guidance on LPHA Use of Bicillin Based on STD Drug Supplier

How do you order drugs for LPHA clinic use?	For LPHA Patients, Use:	For Bicillin Access Program Distribution, Use:
Order No-Cost Drugs from STD Program	STD Program Bicillin	STD Program Bicillin
Order 340B-Priced Drugs from Supplier*	340B-Priced Bicillin from Supplier	STD Program Bicillin
Not Applicable—No Treatment Provided by LPHA	Not Applicable—No Treatment Provided by LPHA	STD Program Bicillin

* The following LPHAs are required to order 340B-priced STD drugs for LPHA clinic use directly from a supplier: Clackamas, Clatsop, Deschutes, Josephine, Lane, Linn, Marion, Multnomah, Polk, Umatilla, and Washington.

TRACKING:

OHA is required to track the distribution of STD Program Bicillin. We will be unable to continue the Bicillin Access Program if we cannot track all STD Program Bicillin distributed through this program.

1. Use the STD Program’s electronic [Bicillin tracking form](#) to report distribution. Submit the name of the facility/community provider that received the Bicillin and the number of syringes provided.
2. Complete the [Bicillin tracking form](#) each time you distribute Bicillin to community providers.
3. Avoid distributing STD Program Bicillin to 340B covered agencies (FQHCs and other federally funded sites) that can order their own Bicillin. Clinic administrators know their 340B status.

Additional Guidance for LPHAs that Order 340B-Priced Drugs:

- **Do not distribute 340B-priced drugs to community providers.** The federal 340B Drug Pricing Program prohibits diversion, which occurs when 340B drugs are provided to ineligible patients.
- Implement a system to separate 340B-priced Bicillin from STD Program Bicillin to ensure you do not divert 340B-priced Bicillin—one solution is to put a colored sticker on 340B-priced Bicillin. STD Program Bicillin can be distributed because it is not 340B-priced.
- All STD Program Bicillin ordered should match the amount distributed and tracked since LPHAs that order 340B-priced drugs only use STD Program Bicillin for distribution.
- LPHAs can request reimbursement for the purchase of 340B-priced STD drugs. Contact the [STD Program](#) for more information.