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March 29, 2019

TO: LPHA STD Programs

FROM: Tim W. Menza, MD, PhD
Medical Director, HIV/STD/TB Section

RE: Bicillin access for community partners

The OHA STD Program is pleased to announce that local public health authorities (LPHAs) may distribute penicillin G benzathine (Bicillin) to community clinics and providers for the treatment of syphilis in counties where community clinics and providers do not stock Bicillin or are otherwise unable to administer timely syphilis treatment. LPHAs can use their existing community health clinic licensure to perform this critical public health function.

How do LPHAs order Bicillin to supply to community partners?

There is no change to the ordering and provision of Bicillin for LPHA patients.

LPHAs that order Bicillin through the OHA STD Program will continue to use the same process to order for LPHA patient needs and may order additional Bicillin for distribution to community clinics and providers.

LPHAs that purchase Bicillin through the 340B program will continue to use 340B Bicillin for LPHA patients. These LPHAs may also order Bicillin through the OHA STD Program specifically for distribution to community clinics and providers.

LPHAs are responsible for distributing Bicillin to community clinics and providers as they see fit.

The OHA STD Drug Order Form is enclosed with this letter.

How do LPHAs keep track of Bicillin distributed to community partners?

We request that LPHAs that decide to distribute Bicillin to community clinics and providers document the following information on the enclosed Bicillin Distribution Tracking Form:

1. Clinic and/or provider receiving Bicillin
2. Number of syringes of Bicillin distributed (one syringe contains 1.2 million units Bicillin and one dose is two syringes, or 2.4 million units Bicillin)

LPHAs should share a copy of the Bicillin Distribution Tracking Form with the community provider and keep a copy for their records. LPHAs will fax these forms to the OHA STD Program either 1) as they are completed or 2) batched at regular intervals. LPHAs may also choose to keep a log of Bicillin distributed to community partners (with the above information) and fax that log, instead of the tracking forms, to the OHA STD Program on a regular basis.

We thank you for your patience while we work toward resolving issues of access to Bicillin and do hope this distribution option improves access to timely, appropriate syphilis treatment in this era of epidemic syphilis. Please do not hesitate to contact the STD Program with any questions or concerns at 971-673-0152.

Sincerely,

Tim W. Menza, MD, PhD
On behalf of the OHA STD Program

Enc: OHA STD Drug Order Form, Bicillin Distribution Tracking Form