

27 August 2026

Update for rheumatic fever, sexual health service providers and primary care.

Limited Bicillin supplies for young children only - use Benzetacil for anyone over 13 years

Key points

- Modelling shows national stocks of Bicillin L-A are tight and may not last until the anticipated restock, unless services move quickly to the alternative Benzetacil if they haven't already.
- We need to preserve current Bicillin supplies for young children receiving regular rheumatic fever prophylaxis.
- Young children have been prioritised as they would require two injections for Benzetacil, due to the larger volume to be administered.
- Everyone else on the rheumatic fever programme, including those aged over 13 years, need to change over to Benzetacil as soon as possible. Please aim to transition by 4th September.
- Everyone receiving syphilis treatment should be administered Benzetacil through sexual health services.
- Order Benzetacil if you haven't already done so, this is available on PSO.
- If you have excess stock of Bicillin, please consider returning to your supplier or pharmacy for redistribution.
- There are information sheets for patients/whānau about Benzetacil and tips for staff administering the formulation. More information is here [Priority access to Bicillin while Benzetacil for wider use | Health Professionals](#)
- If you have any concerns on switching your service to Benzetacil or have questions on the process, please contact rachel.jordan@tewhatauora.govt.nz