

July 16 2026 Update

Benzetacil treatment for rheumatic fever

This is an update on the transition from Bicillin to the alternative formulation Benzetacil

- Because of the global shortage of Bicillin L-A, a dry powder formulation Benzetacil is now available for young people and adults for the prevention of rheumatic fever and treatment of syphilis.
- Early feedback from teams transitioning to Benzetacil is positive, reporting that it has been well tolerated by patients.
- Please follow previous guidance and change to Benzetacil to save the remaining stocks of Bicillin L-A for children.
- Bicillin stock levels remain tight to cover doses for children until the anticipated restock in November. We are using information from the RFCCS, wholesalers, and Pharmac to monitor stock and the transition to Benzetacil.
- If you have excess stock of Bicillin, please speak to your pharmacy or supplier about returning this for redistribution for young children.
- An update on <https://www.healthnz.govt.nz/news-and-updates/bicillin-benzetacil> has:
 - **patient information sheets** in English, Te Reo, Samoan and Tongan explaining the change for regular Bicillin users
 - **FAQs on administering Benzetacil**
 - **These are also available on RFCCS**

For questions please contact: rheumaticfeverprogramme@tewhatauora.govt.nz