02 June 2026

Benzathine Benzylpenicillin

Urgent Shortage of Bicillin L-A® and Alternative Supply of Benzetacil

Dear Healthcare Professional,

This communication is sent by ORSPEC Pharma Management Limited to notify healthcare professionals of an anticipated shortage of Bicillin L-A® (benzathine benzylpenicillin) in New Zealand and the proposed alternative supply arrangement for Benzetacil (benzathine benzylpenicillin) 1,200,000 IU powder and solvent for suspension for injection under Provisional Consent granted by Medsafe under section 23 of the Medicines Act 1981.

Benzetacil has not been shown to be bioequivalent to Bicillin however the indications are the same and efficacy is assumed to be equivalent.

Benzetacil contains benzathine benzylpenicillin 1,200,000 IU supplied as a powder and solvent for suspension for intramuscular injection.

Healthcare professionals are advised to note the following important differences between the products:

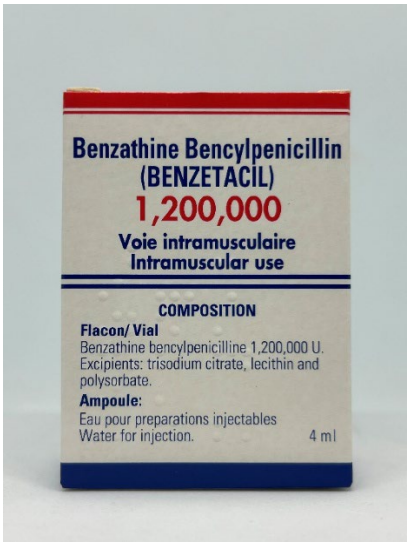
Parameter	**Bicillin L-A®**	**Benzetacil**
Product Presentation	Ready-to-use pre-filled syringe suspension	Powder and solvent for suspension for injection requiring reconstitution prior to administration
Reconstitution	Not required	Reconstitute with 4 mL Water for Injection prior to administration. Final reconstituted volume is approximately 4.8 mL
Injection Volume	Approximately 2.3 mL injection volume for 1,200,000 units	Approximately 4.8 mL final injection volume following reconstitution for 1,200,000 IU
Storage Conditions	Refrigerate at 2–8°C. Do not freeze. May be stored below 30°C for a single period of up to 2 months prior to expiry. Once removed from refrigeration, product must be discarded and cannot be returned to cold storage.	*Prior to reconstitution:* Store at or below 30°C. Protect from light. *After reconstitution:* Use immediately.

<u>Route of Administration</u>
Benzetacil must only be administered by deep intramuscular injection. Intravenous administration must not occur.

Healthcare professionals should consider administration technique and patient tolerability, particularly in paediatric patients and patients requiring repeated administration. For depot preparations, although it is generally recommended not to administer more than 5 mL per injection site, the full Benzetacil dose may be administered at one site where clinically appropriate. If excessive pain occurs, the dose may be divided between two injection sites.

Presentation of Benzetacil:

Carton:



Vial and WFI ampoule:

Data Sheet and Consumer Medicine Information
Please refer to the Medsafe website for the approved New Zealand Data Sheet and Consumer Medicine Information for Benzetacil once published:
https://www.medsafe.govt.nz/Medicines/infoSearch.asp

Adverse Event Reporting
Reporting any suspected adverse event is important for the continued monitoring of the safety of all medicines. Any adverse events which are experienced with Benzetacil (benzathine benzylpenicillin) 1,200,000 IU powder and solvent for suspension for injection should be reported by healthcare professionals and patients to MEDSAFE at https://pophealth.my.site.com/carmreportnz/s/

This information can be reported to ORSPEC Pharma on (+61) 24 339 4239 or email at safety@orspecpharma.com .

Further Information

For further information, please contact ORSPEC Pharma on (+61) 24 339 4239 or email regulatory@orspecpharma.com or newzealand@orspecpharma.com

Please forward this information to relevant staff members in your organisation.

Yours sincerely,

Michelle Pruis
Regulatory and Quality Pharmacist
ORSPEC Pharma Management Limited