



PLEASE DISTRIBUTE TO OTHER HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS IN YOUR FACILITY

Pfizer New Zealand Ltd
Level 1, Building B
8 Nugent Street
Auckland, 1021

10 August 2018

URGENT AND IMPORTANT
BICILLIN L-A[®] (Benzathine Benzylpenicillin tetrahydrate) suspension for injection (TT50-3592/1)

Dear Healthcare Professional

Pfizer is in the process of updating the artwork and Data Sheet for Bicillin L-A.

Due to a timing difference between receiving consent for distribution in New Zealand and Pfizer supplying the product with the new artwork, there may be some confusion about the strength of Bicillin L-A and whether there has been a change to this medicine.

The following changes have been made to the Data Sheet, carton and pre-filled syringe labels:

Element	Old Packaging	New Packaging
Active ingredient name	benzathine benzylpenicillin	benzathine benzylpenicillin tetrahydrate
Expression of product strength	900mg / 2.3mL	1,200,000 Units / 2.3mL

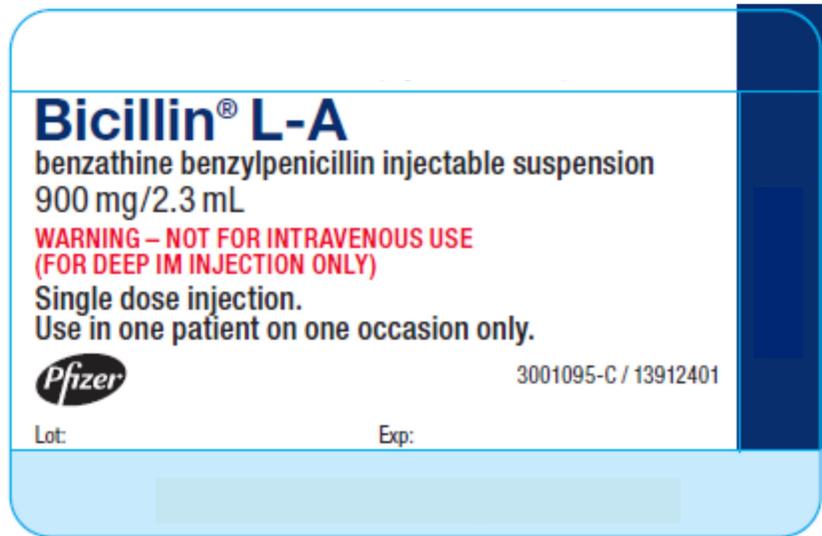
IMPORTANT:

- There is **no change** to the active ingredient strength
- There is **no change** to the product formulation
- There is **no change** to the dosing
- There is **no change** to the administration

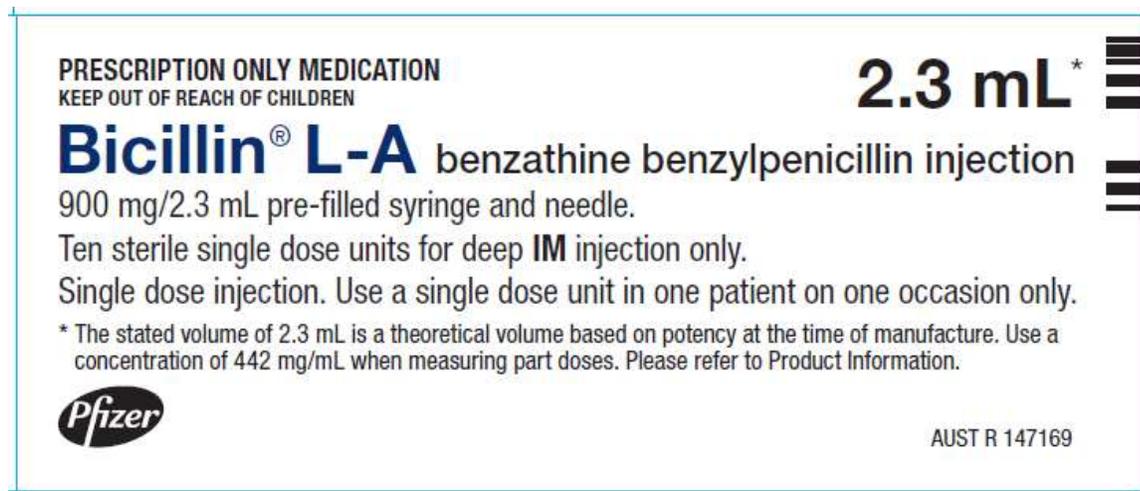
The tetrahydrate form of benzathine benzylpenicillin has always been used in the manufacture of Bicillin L-A. To accurately reflect the concentration of the active ingredient, we will now be describing the strength of Bicillin L-A as 1,200,000 units of benzathine benzylpenicillin tetrahydrate per 2.3 mL.

You will see the new Data Sheet on the Medsafe web site (www.medsafe.govt.nz) immediately, whereas the new artwork will be introduced in January 2019.

Old syringe artwork being supplied for the remainder of 2018:



Old carton artwork being supplied for the remainder of 2018:



New syringe artwork to be introduced in January 2019:

Bicillin[®] L-A
benzathine benzylpenicillin tetrahydrate suspension for injection
1,200,000 units/2.3 mL
**WARNING – NOT FOR INTRAVENOUS USE
(FOR DEEP IM INJECTION ONLY)**
Single dose injection.
Use in one patient on one occasion only.

14444800

Lot: Exp:



New carton artwork to be introduced in January 2019:

PRESCRIPTION ONLY MEDICINE
KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN

Bicillin[®] L-A benzathine benzylpenicillin tetrahydrate
1,200,000 units / 2.3 mL suspension for injection

Disposable pre-filled syringe with needle.
Ten sterile single dose units for deep IM injection only.
Single dose injection. Use a single dose unit in one patient on one occasion only.



AUST R 147169



We apologise for any inconvenience that this change in the description of strength may cause you and your patients. Please contact Pfizer Medical Information on 0800 736 363 if you have any questions with regards to this change.

Please report any suspected adverse events via email to Pfizer Drug Safety at medicalaffairs.anz@pfizer.com. Alternatively, suspected adverse events may be reported to the Centre for Adverse Reactions Monitoring (CARM) in Dunedin online at <https://nzphvc.otago.ac.nz/reporting> or by email to nzphvc@otago.ac.nz.

Before prescribing, please review the full Bicillin L-A[®] Data Sheet available at www.medsafe.govt.nz.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Gargiulo', written in a cursive style.

Pasquale Gargiulo
Associate Medical Director
Pfizer Essential Health