

Syphilis Treatment RECOMMENDATIONS

| STAGE OF SYPHILIS | | RECOMMENDED REGIMENS | DOSE/ROUTE |
|-------------------|---|------------------------|---|
| Early Syphilis | Primary, Secondary, and Early Latent Less than 12 months | Benzathinepenicillin G | 2.4 million units IM in a single dose |
| Late Syphilis | Late latent or unknown duration Greater than 12 months | Benzathinepenicillin G | 7.2 million units IM administrated as 3 doses of 2.4 million units IM each, at 1-week intervals |

*For Neurosyphilis and Ocular Syphilis see CA STD Treatment Guidelines

Additional Treatment Information

- On the day of treatment, order an RPR test for a “day of treatment titer.” This will serve as a benchmark to determine whether patient has adequate treatment response.
- Longer treatment duration is required for persons with syphilis of unknown duration or late latent syphilis (infected greater than 12 months) to ensure adequate treatment.
- **Intramuscular Benzathine penicillin G is the only therapy with documented efficacy for syphilis during pregnancy.** Pregnant women with syphilis in any stage who report penicillin allergy should be desensitized and treated with penicillin.
- Pregnant women diagnosed with late syphilis (3 doses) must be treated exactly **7 days** apart. Pregnant women who miss any doses must repeat full course of therapy.
- If patient is not pregnant and allergic to penicillin, consider alternative regimens; see CA STD Treatment Guidelines.

Treating Partners

- Persons who are a known sexual contact of a partner diagnosed with early syphilis should be treated presumptively for early syphilis, even if serologic test results are negative.
- If you are unable to locate or treat partner(s), please call the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health Partner Services Line 213-639-4277 for assistance.

Assistance

For help interpreting test results and guidance on appropriate staging and treatment, call the **Clinical Guidance and Nursing Unit (213) 368-7441** at the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health.

All cases of syphilis must be reported to the Department of Public Health within **one** working day.
(California Health and Safety Code 120675-120715) <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/dhsp/ReportCase.htm>