ATTN: Medical Health Officers and Branch Offices
Public Health Nursing Administrators and Assistant Administrators
Holders of Communicable Disease Control Manuals

RE: Revisions to the Communicable Disease Control Manual – Chapter 5
Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI)

BACKGROUND

In May 2015, interim guidelines for syphilis treatment were developed by the STI Expert Working Group of the Public Health Agency of Canada in response to a national shortage of Bicillin L-A. The interim guidelines were subsequently circulated broadly by the BCCDC and included into Chapter 5 of the BCCDC Communicable Disease Manual.

Pfizer Canada has confirmed that production of Bicillin L-A is back to normal and that health care providers can resume use of Bicillin L-A for the treatment of syphilis as per provincial recommendations. Please disregard the interim treatment guidelines for syphilis, and resume using the “British Columbia Treatment Guidelines: Sexually Transmitted Infections in Adolescents and Adults, 2014”.

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING CHANGE: BCCDC Communicable Disease Control Manual – Chapter 5: Sexually Infections:

Removed: Interim Syphilis Treatment Guidelines during the Benzathine Penicillin G (Bicillin L-A) shortage 2016.
If you have questions regarding these practice changes, please contact Troy Grennan, Physician Lead, Provincial HIV/STI Program, Clinical Prevention Services BCCDC (Troy.grennan@bccdc.ca) 604-707-5606 or Cheryl Prescott, Senior Practice Lead, Clinical Prevention Services, BCCDC at 604-707-5651 or Cheryl.Prescott@bccdc.ca.

Sincerely,

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