



# Clinicians Connect:

Conversations with  
FDA's Chief Medical Officer

# Clinicians Connect

## Purpose:

- Clinically focused conversation with health care providers on different topics.

## Today's Webinar:

- What we — federal agencies and health care providers — can do to address the recent surge in syphilis and its impact on individuals, pregnant people, and babies.



## Today's Experts

- **B. Kaye Hayes, M.P.A.**, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Infectious Disease and Director, Office of Infectious Disease and HIV/AIDS Policy, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health, HHS
- **Susan Bersoff-Matcha, M.D.**, Deputy Director, Office of Women's Health, Office of the Commissioner, FDA
- **Bradley Stoner, M.D., Ph.D.**, Director, Division of STD Prevention, National Center for HIV, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention, CDC
- **Carolyn Deal, Ph.D.**, Chief of the Enteric and Sexually Transmitted Infections Branch, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease, NIH

# Penicillin Is the Only Recommended Regimen for Syphilis in the 2021 CDC STI Treatment Guidelines

## Primary, Secondary & Early Latent

**Benzathine penicillin G**  
2.4 million units IM in a single dose

## Late Latent & Latent Unknown Duration

**Benzathine penicillin G**  
7.2 million units total, administered as 3 doses of 2.4 million units IM each at 1-week intervals

## Neurosyphilis, Ocular Syphilis or Ootosyphilis

**Aqueous crystalline penicillin G**  
18–24 million units per day, administered as 3–4 million units IV every 4 hours or continuous infusion for 10–14 days



Above recommendations are for adults. See Sexually Transmitted Infections Treatment Guidelines, 2021 for the complete list of recommendations on treating syphilis including treatment for children and congenital syphilis.

# Penicillin Is the Only Recommended Regimen for Syphilis in the 2021 CDC STI Treatment Guidelines

Primary, Secondary & Early Latent

Late Latent & Latent Unknown Duration

Neurosyphilis, Ocular Syphilis or Ootosyphilis



**Pregnant people must receive benzathine penicillin**

single dose

2.4 million units IM each at 1-week intervals

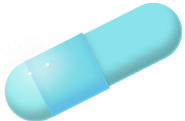

units IV every 4 hours or continuous infusion for 10–14 days



Above recommendations are for adults. See Sexually Transmitted Infections Treatment Guidelines, 2021 for the complete list of recommendations on treating syphilis including treatment for children and congenital syphilis.

# Two Alternative Treatments Have Been Used for Years

## *Primary, Secondary, and Latent Syphilis*

Antimicrobial	Dose	Duration*
 Doxycycline	100 mg orally 2 times/day	14 or 28 Days
 Tetracycline	500 mg orally 4 times/day	14 or 28 Days

\*Duration is dependent on the stage of syphilis. Primary, secondary, and early latent syphilis duration is 14 days. Late latent or syphilis of unknown duration is 28 days.