FDA Announces the Importation of a New Medication for the Treatment of Syphilis
Extencilline (Benzylpenicillin Benzathine) will be Available to Address the Shortage of Bicillin-LA

January 17, 2024 – The U.S. Food and Drug Administration announced the importation of a medication to address the ongoing shortage of Bicillin-LA, a medication used to treat syphilis in pregnancy. In response, the Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine (SMFM) issued the following statement.

“SMFM supports the use of Extencilline (Benzylpenicillin Benzathine) for the treatment of syphilis in pregnant patients who meet the clinical qualification. This therapy should not be withheld specifically due to pregnancy or lactation. Extencilline has been determined to be equivalent to Bicillin L-A® and the dosing is the same.”

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About SMFM
The Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine (SMFM), founded in 1977, is the medical professional society for obstetricians who have additional training in high-risk, complicated pregnancies. SMFM represents more than 6,000 members who care for high-risk pregnant people and provides education, promotes research, and engages in advocacy to reduce disparities and optimize the health of high-risk pregnant people and their families. SMFM and its members are dedicated to optimizing maternal and fetal outcomes and assuring medically appropriate treatment options are available to all patients. Learn more at SMFM.org.