



# BRIEF

Bi-monthly newsletter to keep you connected

*Condolences, OB/GYN Survey update, Voice support for prior authorization reform, BIDMC Surgery Contacts, Primary care webinar series, Treat tick bites, Specialized program for Spanish speakers, Pfizer recalls Syphilis drug, BILHPN pharmacy newsletter*

Our condolences to the family and friends of our colleague Norman Joffe, MD, who passed away on July 14, 2025. You can read his obituary here.



[Norman Joffe Obituary - Brookline, MA](#)



## OB/GYN Survey update

Physician Performance has received some updates to the OB/GYN survey chart - click [here](#) for the most up to date contact and service line information.

## Opportunity to voice your support for prior authorization reform

Last week Dr. Kimball, Physician Performance President, testified in support of [legislation](#) to reform the prior authorization process, and to urge legislators to pass reforms that will improve timely access to and continuity of care for patients, promote transparency and accountability, and reduce unnecessary waste in our health care system.



If you would like to add your voice in support of these reforms, click this [link](#) to access a written testimony template that you can address to your state representative.

A few clicks can make a big difference in cutting red tape that will improve patient care and help provide much-needed relief for our health care workforce.

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## BIDMC Surgery Contact List

The BIDMC Surgery Department has created a Surgical Divisions and Provider Directory which lists physicians, clinical interests and scheduling information by division. Click [here](#) to access the document.



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## Primary Care webinar series opportunity

BILH Primary Care is inviting all primary care physicians and advanced practice providers to take advantage of the 2025-2026 Core Updates and Essentials, available to you at a **25% discount**. *The BILHPC Core Updates and Essentials in Primary Care 2025-2026* is available at your convenience by live webinar and/or on demand.



Click [here](#) for more information on this high quality, comprehensive, applicable, and enjoyable CME offering, and *Click here to [Register for Core 2025-2026](#)* with voucher code **BILHPN** for your 25% discount!

Email [@BILHPC Core CME](mailto:@BILHPC Core CME) with any questions.



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## How to Treat Tick Bites

DPH says the rise in Lyme disease cases in Massachusetts is clear – from 2,467 confirmed and probable cases in 2005 to 8,835 cases in 2024 – and notes that the number is probably much higher than what has been captured in surveillance data.

This year is especially bad, [DPH says in this advisory](#), which recommends Doxycycline 200 mg single dose given with food as the best treatment option.

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## Specialized Outpatient Program for Spanish Speakers

Branches Jamaica Plain, a service of Arbour Hospital, will open a specialized outpatient program for native or primary Spanish speakers on Monday, July 28. The Partial Hospitalization Program (PHP) is an intensive, highly structured, full-time day treatment program that promotes healthy skill development through evidence-based group therapies. [Learn more here](#).





## Pfizer Recalls Syphilis Drug; Shortages Expected

[DPH has sent out notice](#) warning against expected shortages of the drug Bicillin, following a nationwide recall of the product by its manufacturer, Pfizer. Particulates in the product were identified during visual inspection. The products affected were distributed between December 11, 2023, and June 24, 2025. DPH says it is “monitoring the situation actively with the goal of maintaining sufficient statewide supply for treatment of syphilis, prioritizing pregnant individuals and infants, because injectable long- acting benzathine penicillin G is the only acceptable treatment for syphilis in pregnancy and infants exposed to syphilis.”

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### BILHPN Pharmacy Newsletter

BILHPN Pharmacy has published their newsletter for July.

For more information, click [here](#)

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**Reminder:** If you have an upcoming publication, presentation, award, or honor that you'd like to let us know about, please reach out to us at [PLLCAAdministration@bidmc.harvard.edu](mailto:PLLCAAdministration@bidmc.harvard.edu)

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Please reach out to me if you have any questions or concerns. I can be reached via email at [PLLCAAdministration@bidmc.harvard.edu](mailto:PLLCAAdministration@bidmc.harvard.edu) or leave me a message at (617) 632-9728 and I will get back to you.

Deb Schoenthaler, Executive Director

