



Revised Gonorrhea Treatment Guidelines – August 2012

Due to ongoing concerns about the potential emergence in the U.S. of cephalosporin resistant *Neisseria gonorrhoea*, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) updated its Sexually Transmitted Disease Treatment Guidelines for gonorrhea treatment in the August 10, 2012 *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR)*. Effective immediately, the only recommended treatment for uncomplicated urogenital, rectal or pharyngeal gonorrhea infection is dual antibiotic therapy with ceftriaxone 250 mg IM plus either azithromycin 1g orally once or doxycycline 100 mg orally twice daily for 7 days.

Cefixime 400 mg orally once plus either azithromycin or doxycycline is now moved down to an alternative treatment regimen, and should only be used if a patient cannot be treated with a ceftriaxone-based dual regimen as outlined above.

Based on earlier resistance patterns to other classes of antibiotics, California will likely be among the first U.S. states to see cases of cephalosporin resistant GC. For this reason, in San Francisco, we urge providers to use ceftriaxone-based dual antibiotic regimens to treat gonorrhea per CDC guidelines. Sexually active gay men and other MSM should be screened for gonorrhea (GC) and chlamydia (CT) every 3-6 months at all exposed sites using nucleic acid amplification tests (NAAT). Screening for GC and CT in the throat and rectum is essential as these sites are where the majority of infections are found and most are asymptomatic and therefore would not be detected without screening. Providers and patients should also be alert for possible treatment failures. Patients treated for gonorrhea should be advised to return if their symptoms do not resolve. In these cases, please notify SFDPH STD Prevention and Control via City Clinic's provider line: (415) 487-5595. For the most current GC updates including alternative regimens and partner therapy, please see www.sfcityclinic.org/providers/#gonorrhea. For additional consultation, please contact [Stephanie Cohen](#) (415 487-5503) or [Susan Philip](#) (415 355-2007). SP