

DATE:	October 7, 2016
TO:	Health Alert Network
FROM:	Karen Murphy, PhD, RN, Secretary of Health
SUBJECT:	CDC Alert on Possible Cephalosporin Resistant Gonorrhea
DISTRIBUTION:	Statewide
LOCATION:	Statewide
STREET ADDRESS:	Statewide
COUNTY:	Statewide
MUNICIPALITY:	Statewide
ZIP CODE:	Statewide

This transmission is a “Health Advisory”: provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.

HOSPITALS: PLEASE SHARE WITH ALL MEDICAL, PEDIATRIC, INFECTION CONTROL, NURSING, AND LABORATORY STAFF IN YOUR HOSPITAL

EMS COUNCILS: PLEASE DISTRIBUTE AS APPROPRIATE

FQHCs: PLEASE DISTRIBUTE AS APPROPRIATE

LOCAL HEALTH JURISDICTIONS: PLEASE DISTRIBUTE AS APPROPRIATE

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS: PLEASE DISTRIBUTE TO YOUR MEMBERSHIP

In July 2016, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released a warning that a recent strain of Gonorrhea identified in Hawaii was demonstrated by laboratory test to be resistant to cephalosporin antibiotics. Cephalosporin antibiotics have been the foundation for the recommended treatment of gonorrhea for nearly a decade. According to CDC, the emergence of cephalosporin-resistant gonorrhea would significantly complicate the ability of providers to treat gonorrhea successfully, since we have few antibiotic options remaining that are simple, well-studied, well-tolerated and highly effective.

As such, providers are reminded of the following:

1. Maintain a high level of diligence in assuring clients infected or exposed to gonorrhea are appropriately treated following the treatment recommendations documented in the most recent CDC STD Treatment Guidelines.
2. Clients who remain symptomatic after receiving the appropriate CDC recommend treatment should be re-tested by both a nucleic acid amplification testing (NAAT) and by gonorrhea culture tests three (3) weeks after initial treatment has been completed. It should be noted that gonorrhea culture is considered by CDC to be the “gold standard” for susceptibility testing of N. gonorrhoeae and is required to evaluate all suspected cases of gonorrhea for treatment failure. Providers that do not have access to gonorrhea culturing of a suspected gonorrhea treatment failure are encouraged to immediately contact their local health department, Bureau of Laboratories (484) 870-6416, or

the Pennsylvania Department of Health at (717) 787-3981 to arrange for a gonorrhea culture at one of the 33 designated STD testing sites that maintain gonorrhea culture ability.

Additional Information

We encourage providers to review and become familiar with all of the recommendations contained in the revised *2015 CDC STD Treatment Guidelines*. The entire document and supporting documentation is available online at: www.cdc.gov/std/treatment

Synopsis of the 2015 CDC STD Treatment Guidelines for the Treatment of Uncomplicated Gonococcal Infections of the Cervix, Urethra, and Rectum

Recommended Regimen

- Ceftriaxone 250 mg IM in a single dose
PLUS
- Azithromycin 1g orally in a single dose

Physicians needing additional information regarding the changes to the *2015 CDC STD Treatment Guidelines* are asked to call the following number:

Pennsylvania Department of Health
Bureau of Communicable Diseases
Division of TB/STD
STD Program
(717) 787-3981
8:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M

Reporting Requirements

The Department of Health requires all providers and laboratories to perform electronic reporting of all diseases, infections and conditions listed in 28 Pa. Code Chapter 27, Subchapter B (relating to reporting of diseases, infections and conditions) through its electronic disease surveillance system, PA-NEDSS. Providers are reminded that these reporting requirements expect providers to report diagnosis and treatments for positive STD cases, Providers not registered for PA-NEDSS can do so by contacting the PA-NEDSS Security Officer by email at ddockey@pa.gov or by phone at (717) 836-3618.

Categories of Health Alert messages:

Health Alert: conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.

Health Advisory: provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.

Health Update: provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action

This information is current as of October 7, 2016, but may be modified in the future. We will continue to post updated information regarding the most common questions about this subject.