



<b>DATE:</b>	08/26/2015
<b>TO:</b>	Health Alert Network
<b>FROM:</b>	Karen M. Murphy, PhD, RN, Secretary of Health
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>Updates to CDC Recommended Gonorrhea Treatment</b>
<b>DISTRIBUTION:</b>	Statewide
<b>LOCATION:</b>	Statewide
<b>STREET ADDRESS:</b>	Statewide
<b>COUNTY:</b>	Statewide
<b>MUNICIPALITY:</b>	Statewide
<b>ZIP CODE:</b>	Statewide

**This transmission is a “Health Advisory” that 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 June 2015, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released the *2015 STD Treatment Guidelines* to include several changes to the recommended treatment for uncomplicated gonorrhea infections.

For your reference, we have listed below a summary of the 2015 treatment changes for uncomplicated gonorrhea.

**Synopsis of Changes to 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

### **Alternative Regimens**

If ceftriaxone is not available:

- **Cefixime** 400 mg orally in a single dose  
PLUS
- **Azithromycin** 1g orally in a single dose

**Special Note:** A 400-mg oral dose of Cefixime should only be considered as an alternative cephalosporin regimen because it does not provide as high, nor as sustained, bactericidal blood levels as a 250-mg dose of ceftriaxone; further, it demonstrates limited efficacy for treatment of pharyngeal gonorrhea.

**Use of ceftriaxone or cefixime is contraindicated in persons with a history of an IgE-mediated penicillin allergy.**

- **Gentamicin 240 mg IM** in a single dose  
PLUS
- **Azithromycin 2g** orally in a single dose

### **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](http://www.cdc.gov/std/treatment)

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

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 August 26, 2015, but may be modified in the future. We will continue to post updated information regarding the most common questions about this subject.