

HALTON REGION PUBLIC HEALTH • Office of the Medical Officer of Health

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TO: Halton Physicians, Nurse Practitioners, Emergency Departments, other Healthcare Providers

FROM: Dr. Patrick Galange, Associate Medical Officer of Health

DATE: February 10, 2025

RE: NEW Gonorrhea Testing and Treatment Guidance

QUICK FACTS

- The National Advisory Committee on Sexually Transmitted and Blood-Borne Infections (NAC-STBBI) has issued new guidance for treating uncomplicated gonococcal infections (i.e., urogenital, rectal, and pharyngeal) for patients 10 years of age and older.
- The preferred treatment is now **Ceftriaxone 500 mg IM as a single dose (monotherapy)**. This replaces the previous preference for combination therapy (e.g. Ceftriaxone 250 mg IM + Azithromycin 1g PO).
 - Two 250 mg vials are needed to administer the recommended 500 mg dose. Of note, 500 mg vials of Ceftriaxone are not currently available in Canada.
 - To order publicly funded STI medications, please visit Halton.ca.

KEY MESSAGES FOR HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS

- Alternative treatment options are currently under review by NAC-STBBI. Please consult [PHAC's Gonorrhea Guidance](#) for updates.
- For patients where chlamydia infection has not been ruled out with a negative test, concurrent treatment for chlamydia should also be offered as per [PHAC's Chlamydia and LGV Guidance](#)
- A Test of Cure (TOC) is recommended for all cases of gonorrhea at all positive sites, the specifics of which depend on timing after treatment completion and patient's symptom status.
 - If a test of cure is done 3 to 21 days after treatment completion, a culture is recommended regardless of the patient's symptom status.
 - If a test of cure is done after 21 days from treatment completion and the patient is:
 - Asymptomatic – NAAT is recommended
 - Symptomatic – Both Culture and NAAT are recommended
- Repeat screening continues to be recommended six months post treatment for all cases.
 - **ADDITIONAL RESOURCES** [Canadian STI Guidelines: Gonorrhea](#)
 - [PHO: Gonorrhea](#)

Please report all suspected/confirmed cases of [Diseases of Public Health Significance](#) (only report COVID-19 cases occurring in high-risk settings) to Public Health immediately by calling 311, 905-825-6000 or toll free at 1-866-442-5866.

PLEASE PROVIDE A COPY TO ALL PHYSICIANS IN YOUR OFFICE AND/OR POST IN EMERGENCY DEPARTMENTS AND PHYSICIAN LOUNGES. IF YOU HAVE ANY ISSUES WITH THIS ATTACHMENT, PLEASE EMAIL DOCTORS@HALTON.CA.