

TO: Halton Physicians
Chairs of: Family Practice, Paediatrics, Emergency, Obstetrics and Gynaecology

POST IN: Emergency Department and Physicians Lounge

FROM: Dr. Julie Emili, Associate Medical Officer of Health

DATE: Wednesday, June 27, 2018

RE: Sexual Health and Needle Exchange Program changes

This advisory is to make you aware of changes in the Sexual Health and Needle Exchange program.

1. Follow up of cases of sexually transmitted infections

The Health Department is prioritizing follow up of cases of chlamydia and gonorrhea to:

- < age 18
- Pregnant woman
- Co-infected with HIV
- STI within previous year
- Untreated/incorrectly treated
- Unaware of diagnosis
- Not counseled fully by testing clinician

(Note: full counseling will be determined by your completion of the surveillance form and includes informing patient of their test result, discussing 7 day abstinence from unprotected sex post treatment completion, and advising patient to notify partners within the last 60 days)

The Health Department offers free STI medications to all Halton Region health care providers and medical clinics, for the treatment of Chlamydia, Gonorrhea, and Syphilis. All patients (regardless of OHIP status) diagnosed with a reportable STI and their partners are eligible for the following free STI medications:

- Azithromycin
- Ceftriaxone
- Penicillin G Benzathine (Bicillin® L-A)

To order the above medications, send the completed STI Medication Order Form by fax to 905-849-8718. If your patient has an allergy to any of the first line treatment options, please call 905-825-6000 x 7788 to arrange alternate treatment.

2. Clinic changes

The Health Department will no longer be accepting community prescriptions for birth control. In order to comply with prescribing standards, each patient has to be assessed by clinic staff before a prescription can be dispensed so a community prescription is not necessary. In addition, birth control will only be available to women under the age of 35.

Please report all suspected or confirmed cases of [Diseases of Public Health Significance](#) (formerly Reportable Diseases) to the Halton Region Health Department as soon as possible. Diseases marked * should be reported immediately by telephone (24 hours a day, 7 days a week) or fax (Mon-Fri, 8:30 am – 4:30 pm only). Other diseases can be reported the next working day. Dial 311, 905-825-6000 or toll free at 1-866-442-5866. For general information, please visit www.halton.ca/physicians. To sign up for important updates by email, visit www.halton.ca/physicianupdates.

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