



# County of Erie

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## HEALTH ADVISORY # 303

January 30, 2013

### Treatment Regimens for Sexually Transmitted Infections During Doxycycline Shortages

Please distribute to the Healthcare Providers, Infection Control Department, Emergency Department, Employee Health Service, Infectious Disease Department, Director of Nursing, Medical Director, Laboratory Service, and all patient care areas.

#### SUMMARY

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) reported a shortage of doxycycline on January 18, 2013. Doxycycline is a recommended therapy for some sexually transmitted infections and syndromes including chlamydia, nongonococcal urethritis, epididymitis and pelvic inflammatory disease (PID). It is also an alternative therapy for syphilis in patients with a penicillin allergy. Doxycycline tablets/capsules are currently available in limited supplies. As a result of the emergence of quinolone-resistant *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*, regimens that include a quinolone agent are no longer recommended for the treatment of gonorrhea, cervicitis, urethritis or PID.

#### TREATMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommended and additional alternative regimens are listed below and outlined in the 2010 STD Treatment Guidelines available at: <http://www.cdc.gov/std/treatment/2010/default.htm>.

#### **Chlamydia and Nongonococcal urethritis**

*Azithromycin 1 g orally in a single dose*

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#### **Gonorrhea**

*Ceftriaxone 250 mg IM in a single dose*

#### PLUS

*Azithromycin 1 g orally in a single dose*

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#### **Syphilis (penicillin allergic)**

**Primary or secondary syphilis**

*Tetracycline 500 mg orally four times daily for 14 days*

**Late latent syphilis**

*Tetracycline 500 mg orally four times daily for 28 days*

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**Epididymitis**

*Ceftriaxone 250 mg IM in a single dose*

PLUS

*Tetracycline 500 mg four times daily for 10 days*

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**Pelvic Inflammatory Disease\***

*Ceftriaxone 250 mg IM in a single dose*

PLUS

*Clindamycin 450 mg orally four times daily for 14 days*

*WITH OR WITHOUT*

*Metronidazole 500 mg orally twice a day for 14 days*

\* In one study, *ceftriaxone 250 mg IM single dose plus azithromycin 1 g orally once a week for 2 weeks* demonstrated short-term effectiveness. Please see 2010 STD Treatment Guidelines ([www.cdc.gov/std/treatment](http://www.cdc.gov/std/treatment)) for additional regimens.

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

Providers with questions or concerns may contact the Erie County Department of Health’s Sexually Transmitted Disease Program at (716) 858-2957 (Monday – Friday 8:30 AM – 4:00 PM).

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

For additional information about the availability of doxycycline, visit the FDA Drug Shortage Website at: <http://www.fda.gov/Drugs/DrugSafety/DrugShortages/ucm314739.htm#doxycycline>

CDC recommended and additional alternative regimens are outlined in the 2010 STD Treatment Guidelines available at: <http://www.cdc.gov/std/treatment/2010/default.htm>.

The ECDOH Health Alert & Advisory System is an e-mail notification system designed to alert community partners about important health related information. You can sign up to receive alerts & advisories at <http://www2.erie.gov/health/index.php?q=node/59>.

**Health Category Definitions:**

**Health Alert FLASH:** conveys the highest level of importance due to a large-scale, catastrophic public health emergency; warrants immediate action or attention

**Health Alert Priority:** conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention to a health problem or situation

**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; no immediate action necessary

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