



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P. O. BOX 3378
HONOLULU, HI 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:
File:

MEDICAL ADVISORY
April 15, 2011

SUBJECT: ANTIBIOTIC- RESISTANT GONORRHEA: TREATMENT UPDATE

Dear Colleagues:

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released updated Sexually Transmitted Disease Treatment Guideline in December, 2010. **Current best practices for treating uncomplicated *Neisseria gonorrhoea* when there is no allergy or other contraindications were revised to:**

**Ceftriaxone (Rocephin®) 250 milligrams, given intramuscularly
along with
Azithromycin (Zithromax®) 1 gram, given orally**

Doubling the previously recommended dose of ceftriaxone to 250 mg with administration of 1 gm of azithromycin orally will diminish the emergence of cephalosporin-resistant gonorrhea, a significant concern in Hawaii. Azithromycin has been used for treatment of chlamydia sexually transmitted infections, and now offers an additional benefit of mitigating the emergence of cephalosporin-resistant gonorrhea infections.

Since 2000, the Hawaii Department of Health and CDC have **emphasized not to use fluoroquinolones**, such as ciprofloxacin, to treat gonorrhea in Hawaii. Cephalosporins are the only class of antibiotics left to effectively treat gonorrhea in Hawaii, and these are gradually showing development of resistance. During the first three quarters of 2010, *N. gonorrhoeae* isolates in Hawaii were 100% susceptible to ceftriaxone (Rocephin®), 97% to cefixime (Suprax®), 89% to cefpodoxime (Vantin®), 87% to azithromycin (Zithromax®), and 61% to ciprofloxacin (Cipro®).

Attached are alternative, second line recommendations for treatment when the primary recommended treatment is not possible. Along with the medical management of patients with sexually transmitted infection, medical management of their partner(s) is also important to prevent re-infection of your patients and to decrease disease burden in the community. Also included are requirements for disease reporting. If you have any questions or have a suspected treatment failure, please call Venie Lee of the STD Prevention Program at (808) 733-9281 or (808) 286-3591. Patient information is kept confidential. Additional STD information for medical providers is also available at the Hawaii Department of Health's STD/AIDS Prevention Branch website:

<http://www.hawaii.gov/health/healthy-lifestyles/std-aids/index.html>

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Glenn M. Wasserman in black ink.

Glenn M. Wasserman, M.D., M.P.H.
Chief, Communicable Disease Division

Attachments:

Hawaii Recommendations for Treatment, Management, and Reporting of Gonorrhea Cases, 2011
Hawaii STD Treatment Guidelines for Adults and Adolescents, 2011
Hawaii Department of Health STD Case Report Form, 2011
Hawaii STD Screening Recommendations, 2011