



RELEASE



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**DC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH STD ALERT FOR AREA HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS**

*“Fluoroquinolones are no longer recommended for the treatment of gonorrhea in the United States”*

(Washington, DC) – On April 12, 2007 CDC announced that fluoroquinolones are no longer recommended for the treatment of gonorrhea in the United States. This recommendation was based on analysis of new data from CDC’s Gonococcal Isolate Surveillance Project (GISP), a sentinel surveillance system that monitors trends in antimicrobial susceptibilities of strains of *N. gonorrhoeae* in the U.S. The data on which the recommendation is based were published in the MMWR<sup>1</sup> and show that in the first half of 2006 among heterosexual men, the proportion of gonorrhea cases that were fluoroquinolone-resistant (QRNG) reached 6.7%, an 11-fold increase from 0.6% in 2001.

CDC has recommended oral fluoroquinolones (ciprofloxacin, ofloxacin and levofloxacin) as first-line treatments for gonorrhea since 1993, but over the past several years, as QRNG cases increased steadily, CDC advised that they were not recommended for treating gonorrhea, first in Hawaii (2000), then California (2002), and, most recently, in men who have sex with men nationwide (2004).

Recommended options for treating gonorrhea are now limited to a single class of antibiotics, cephalosporins. Within this class, CDC recommends ceftriaxone, available only as an injection, as the preferred treatment for all types of gonorrhea infection (genital, anal and pharyngeal). Recommendations are below; more details are available at <http://www.cdc.gov/std/treatment/>.

**Uncomplicated Gonococcal Infections of the Cervix, Urethra, and Rectum\***

**Recommended Regimens:** Ceftriaxone 125mg IM in a single dose **or** Cefixime\*\* 400mg orally in a single dose **plus** TREATMENT FOR CHLAMYDIA IF CHLAMYDIAL INFECTION IS NOT RULED OUT

**Alternative Regimens:** Spectinomycin\*\*\* 2gm in a single IM dose **or** Single-dose cephalosporin regimens\*\*\*\*

**Uncomplicated Gonococcal Infections of the Pharynx\***

**Recommended Regimen:** Ceftriaxone 125mg IM in a single dose **plus** TREATMENT FOR CHLAMYDIA IF CHLAMYDIAL INFECTION IS NOT RULED OUT

\*These regimens are recommended for all adult and adolescent patients, regardless of travel history or sexual behavior

\*\*The tablet formulation of cefixime is currently not available in the United States

\*\*\*Spectinomycin is currently not available in the United States

\*\*\*\*Other single-dose cephalosporin therapies that are considered alternative treatment regimens for uncomplicated urogenital and anorectal gonococcal infections include ceftizoxime 500mg IM; **or** cefoxitin 2gm IM, administered with probenecid 1gm orally; **or** cefotaxime 500mg IM. Some evidence indicates that cefpodoxime 400mg and cefuroxime axetil 1gm might be oral alternatives

<sup>1</sup>CDC. Update to CDC’s *Sexually Transmitted Diseases Treatment Guidelines, 2006: Fluoroquinolones No Longer Recommended for Treatment of Gonococcal Infections*. MMWR 2007;56(14):332-336.