

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

TEL: 905-825-6000 • TOLL FREE: 1-866-442-5866 • FAX: 905-825-1444

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

FROM: Dr. Deepika Lobo, Associate Medical Officer of Health

DATE: April 28, 2023

RE: Multidrug-Resistant Gonorrhoea (MDR-GC)

QUICK FACTS

- A multidrug-resistant strain of gonorrhoea (MDR-GC) has been identified in [Europe](#) and [USA](#). A recent Ontario case with no known travel history also had a similar drug resistance pattern (i.e. reduced susceptibility to ceftriaxone and cefixime, as well as resistance to ciprofloxacin, penicillin, and tetracycline).
- All patients, with suspected gonorrhoea infection, should have both a NAAT and a culture specimen collected from each potentially exposed site (e.g. urogenital, pharyngeal, and/or rectal). NAAT is more sensitive while culture allows for assessment of drug sensitivity.
- Per the [Canadian Guidelines on Sexually Transmitted Infections](#), test of cure (TOC) is recommended for all positive cases of gonorrhoea at all positive sites:
 - Culture preferred for TOC and should be performed 3-7 days after treatment completion.
 - If culture not available, NAAT should be performed at 2-3 weeks post-treatment.
- All gonorrhoea cases should be re-screened at six months following treatment, given risks for re-infection or re-exposure
- If you identify any patients with MDR-GC, notify Public Health by calling 311 to support case management and follow-up of contacts

KEY MESSAGES FOR HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS

- For GC [NAAT testing](#) - use the appropriate Roche cobas[®] swab sample kit or cobas[®] urine sample kit recommended by Public Health Ontario
- For GC [culture testing](#) – use the charcoal swabs included in the *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* culture kit from Public Health Ontario. Urine cannot be tested for culture.
- The preferred treatment regimen for individuals with uncomplicated gonorrhoea is ceftriaxone 250mg IM plus azithromycin 1g PO. Patients can be treated empirically before lab results.
- Alternate treatment regimens (e.g. for those with severe allergy) are outlined in the [Ontario Gonorrhoea Testing and Treatment Guide](#) from Public Health Ontario
- STI medications can be ordered from Halton Region Public Health using the [STI Medication Order Form](#)

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- For detailed testing information, see [Public Health Ontario's Test Information Index](#)

- For testing supplies, see Public Health Ontario's [Requisition for Specimen Containers and Supplies](#)
- For any questions related to testing, please contact Public Health Ontario's Customer Service Centre by phone: 416-235-6556 or 1-877-604-4567 (Toll Free) or by email: customerservicecentre@oahpp
- Halton.ca [Sexual Health Information for Physicians](#)

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.