



PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY DOXYCYCLINE AND TETRACYCLINE SHORTAGES

February 14, 2013

SITUATION

On February 4, 2013 the California Department of Public Health released a notification about recent shortages of Doxycycline and Tetracycline which may impact your ability to treat or provide prophylaxis for patients.

Background: 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. It is also an alternative therapy for syphilis in patients with a penicillin allergy. Doxycycline pills/capsules are currently in limited supplies. Reports were also received of a shortage of **tetracycline**, which is an alternative to doxycycline for treating certain conditions.

ACTIONS REQUESTED OF CLINICIANS:

Note CDC-recommended and additional alternative regimens listed below:

- 1. Chlamydia and Nongonococcal Urethritis**
Azithromycin 1 g orally in a single dose
- 2. Gonorrhea**
Ceftriaxone 250 mg IM in a single dose PLUS Azithromycin 1 g orally in a single dose
- 3. Primary and Secondary Syphilis (penicillin allergic)**
Tetracycline 500 mg orally four times daily for 14 days
- 4. Late Latent Syphilis (penicillin allergic)**
Tetracycline 500 mg orally four times daily for 28 days
- 5. Epididymitis**
Ceftriaxone 250 mg IM in a single dose PLUS
Tetracycline 500 mg orally four times daily for 10 days
- 6. 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 for 14 days

Other recommended and alternative regimens are also outlined in the 2010 STD Treatment Guidelines.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- CDPH STD Control Branch <http://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/std/Pages/default.aspx>
- CDC Drug Shortage <http://www.cdc.gov/std/treatment/doxycyclineShortage.htm>

As always, please feel free to contact the Alameda County Public Health Department STD Control and Prevention Unit (510) 267-3220 if you have further question.

Health ALERT: conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.

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; unlikely to require immediate action.