

March 27, 2007

IN THIS ISSUE:

Healthy Sexuality Program Update

1. **2006 Edition of the Canadian Guidelines on Sexually Transmitted Infections**
2. **Syphilis Testing and Treatment**
3. **Contact Tracing Protocol**

FROM:

Eileen de Villa, MD, MBA, MHSc, CCFP, FRCPC
Associate Medical Officer of Health

1. New Treatment Guidelines

The Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) has released the *Canadian Guidelines on Sexually Transmitted Infections 2006 Edition*. These updated guidelines provide evidence-based recommendations for the prevention, diagnosis, treatment and management of STIs in Canada. Copies will soon be available through Peel Public Health when picking up your vaccine orders.

The guidelines are also available on-line at:
www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/std-mts/sti_2006/pdf_2006_e.html

Treatment Changes to Note:

PID:

- First line out-patient treatment for mild to moderate PID is now Ofloxacin 400mg PO bid ± metronidazole 500mg PO bid for 14 days OR Levofloxacin 500mg PO od ± metronidazole 500mg PO bid for 14 days. Metronidazole is added to provide anaerobic coverage.
- Individuals treated as outpatients need careful follow-up and should be re-evaluated 2-3 days after therapy is initiated.
- If no clinical improvement has occurred, hospital admission for parenteral treatment is required.

Gonorrhea:

- First line treatment for gonorrhea is Cefixime 400mg PO in a single dose.
- For patients with cephalosporin allergy, Azithromycin 2g PO in a single dose may be used.

Ciprofloxacin and Ofloxacin are NOT options for the treatment of gonorrhea due to high rates of quinolone resistance in Ontario.

- Follow up cultures for test of cure are indicated 4-5 days after the completion of therapy.

2. Syphilis Testing and Treatment

- Peel Public Health must follow-up on all positive syphilis reports and requires the testing physician to determine the stage of syphilis infection, provide appropriate treatment or past treatment information, and determine follow-up care.
- Syphilis Repeat Blood Work: blood work should be monitored (post treatment) until the RPR is seronegative or at a stable low titre (sero-fast). Repeat testing is then **not** required if the baseline or follow-up RPR becomes non-reactive or sero-fast, except in HIV-infected individuals. (p. 242 of the 2006 Guidelines)
- A test for syphilis is **not** required under Health Canada regulations for admission to a long-term care facility or retirement home.

Bicillin Supply

- The Ontario supply of Bicillin is currently depleted.
- Benzathine Benzylpenicillin, remains available through the Special Access Program via Peel Public Health for the treatment of syphilis infections in Ontario.
- Call **905-799-7700** to request the medication.

March 27, 2007

IN THIS ISSUE:

Healthy Sexuality Program Update

- 1. 2006 Edition of the Canadian Guidelines on Sexually Transmitted Infections**
- 2. Syphilis Testing and Treatment**
- 3. Contact Tracing Protocol**

FROM:

Eileen de Villa, MD, MBA, MHSc, CCFP, FRCPC
Associate Medical Officer of Health

3. Contact Tracing Protocol

Peel Public Health is required, under the Health Protection and Promotion Act (HPPA), to contact all Peel residents who test positive for a reportable STI to provide health education and obtain the names and phone numbers for all applicable sexual contacts. Peel Public Health follows up with these contacts to discuss testing and treatment options. Contacts do not receive any information on the index case in keeping with privacy legislation related to personal health information.

Questions? - Please contact Peel Public Health at (905) 799-7700.