

February 2013

**TO:** Local Health Department, Community Health Center, Urgent Care, Emergency Medicine, Family Medicine, Infectious Disease, Internal Medicine and Primary Care Providers

**FROM:** New York State Department of Health Bureau of Sexually Transmitted Disease Prevention and Epidemiology

### **Health Advisory Update: Tetracycline Shortage Notice**

On February 8, 2013, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued an update to the recently announced doxycycline shortage. Information is available at the following CDC website: <http://www.cdc.gov/std/treatment/doxycyclineShortage.htm>.

According to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), tetracycline capsules are currently unavailable. The two U.S. manufacturers of tetracycline have temporarily discontinued availability of the drug with a shortage of raw material necessary for production cited as a contributory factor. Neither company has an estimated release date for product availability. If tetracycline or doxycycline is not available, other alternative regimens for epididymitis and for syphilis in nonpregnant patients with a penicillin allergy are described in the CDC 2010 STD Treatment Guidelines, available at the following website: <http://www.cdc.gov/std/treatment/2010/default.htm>.

This information updates a NYSDOH health advisory about a national shortage of doxycycline which was issued on February 4, 2013 and is attached to this update.

Please contact the NYSDOH Bureau of Sexually Transmitted Disease Prevention and Epidemiology at (518) 474-3598 for additional assistance.

January 2013

**TO:** Local Health Department, Community Health Center, Urgent Care, Emergency Medicine, Family Medicine, Infectious Disease, Internal Medicine and Primary Care Providers

**FROM:** New York State Department of Health Bureau of Sexually Transmitted Disease Prevention and Epidemiology

### **Health Advisory: Doxycycline Shortage**

On January 18, 2013 the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) reported a national shortage of Doxycycline due to manufacturing issues and increased demand for the drug due to a shortage of other drugs. Doxycycline is used to treat selected sexually transmitted diseases and syndromes including Chlamydia, nongonococcal urethritis, epididymitis and pelvic inflammatory disease. It is also used as an alternative treatment for syphilis in non-pregnant patients with a penicillin allergy. Doxycycline tablets/capsules are currently available in limited supplies. The FDA is working with manufacturers to promote product availability and continues to monitor the situation. More information about doxycycline availability may be found at the FDA Drug Shortage Website:

<http://www.fda.gov/Drugs/DrugSafety/DrugShortages/ucm314739.htm#doxycycline>.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have provided recommended and additional alternative regimens as listed below and outlined in the 2010 STD Treatment Guidelines [<http://www.cdc.gov/std/treatment/2010/default.htm>].

#### **Chlamydia and Nongonococcal Urethritis**

Azithromycin 1 g orally in a single dose

#### **Gonorrhea**

Ceftriaxone 250 mg IM in a single dose *PLUS*

Azithromycin 1 g orally in a single dose

**Syphilis (penicillin allergy)**

**Primary or secondary syphilis**

Tetracycline 500 mg orally four times daily for 14 days

**Late Latent Syphilis**

Tetracycline 500 mg orally four times daily for 28 days

**Epididymitis**

Ceftriaxone 250 mg IM in a single dose *PLUS*

Tetracycline 500 mg four times daily for 10 days

**Pelvic Inflammatory Disease\***

Ceftriaxone 250 mg IM in a single dose *PLUS*

Clindamycin 450mg orally four times daily for 14 days

WITH OR WITHOUT

Metronidazole 500 mg orally twice a day for 14 days

\* See additional regimens for pelvic inflammatory disease in the CDC's 2010 STD Treatment Guidelines [<http://www.cdc.gov/std/treatment/2010/default.htm>]

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