

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has updated its recommendation for the treatment of uncomplicated gonorrhea in adults. Effective immediately, uncomplicated gonorrhea of the urethra, cervix, rectum, or pharynx should be treated with ceftriaxone 500 mg, IM, in a single dose (previously 250 mg). Additionally, dual therapy with azithromycin is no longer the recommended approach if the patient is not co-infected with chlamydia.

The new recommendations, briefly summarized below, are available in [2020 Update to CDC's Treatment for Gonococcal Infections](#), a special policy note published on December 17 in *MMWR*, and this new recommendation supersedes the gonorrhea treatment recommendation included in the [2015 STD Treatment Recommendations](#).

1. Treat gonorrhea infections with a **single 500 mg injection of ceftriaxone**.
2. A test-of-cure is not needed for people who receive a diagnosis of uncomplicated urogenital or rectal gonorrhea unless symptoms persist.
3. A test-of-cure is recommended in people with pharyngeal gonorrhea 7-14 days after the initial treatment, regardless of the regimen.
4. Patients who have been treated for gonorrhea should be retested three months after treatment to ensure there is no reinfection.
5. Please consult CDC guidance if there are issues with IM treatment or availability of ceftriaxone
6. For patients co-infected with chlamydia the treatment is 500 mg IM ceftriaxone PLUS 100 mg oral doxycycline twice daily for 7 days
7. As always, partner testing and treatment is critical to stop the chain of infection.

Drug-resistant gonorrhea remains an urgent public health threat. According to the CDC, while they are not seeing treatment failures in the U.S. yet, half of all gonorrhea infections are resistant to at least one antibiotic.

CDC expects to publish the full revised STI Treatment Guidelines in 2021.

If you have questions regarding management of STDs, please contact Amy Peterson, STD Interventions Unit Manager at 313-456-4425 or [Petersona7@michigan.gov](mailto:Petersona7@michigan.gov) or visit [www.michigan.gov/hivstd](http://www.michigan.gov/hivstd).