

**Ministry of Health**

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Dear Colleagues,

We are writing to share information regarding revised gonorrhea treatment guidance. The Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) has revised guidelines for *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* (gonorrhea) infection treatment in the [Canadian Guidelines for Sexually Transmitted Infections](#). There will no longer be Ontario-specific gonorrhea treatment guidance, and previous guidance will be removed from the Public Health Ontario website.

In the revised guidelines, the [preferred treatment recommendation](#) for uncomplicated gonococcal infection (i.e., urethral, endocervical, vaginal, rectal, and pharyngeal infections) is **ceftriaxone 500mg IM as a single dose**. Health care providers can consult the guidelines for alternative treatment options if required. For patients for whom chlamydia infection has not been ruled out with a negative test, concurrent treatment for chlamydia should also be offered as per PHAC's [Chlamydia and LGV Guidance](#).

The guidelines recommend specimen collection for **culture** when feasible (to assess drug sensitivity) in addition to specimens for nucleic acid amplification testing (NAAT) (for greater sensitivity), especially in cases of suspected treatment failure (e.g., persistent/recurrent symptoms), infection acquired in areas with high rates of antimicrobial resistance, symptomatic patients, pelvic inflammatory disease (PID), pregnancy, sexual abuse/sexual assault, or an asymptomatic individual notified as a contact of a gonorrhea case.

The guidelines also recommend a **test of cure** for all positive sites in all cases. Recommendations for test of cure depend on timing after treatment completion and the patient's symptom status:

- If test of cure is done 3 to 21 days after treatment completion, culture is recommended regardless of the patient's symptom status

- If test of cure is done after 21 days from treatment completion and the patient is
  - asymptomatic - NAAT is recommended
  - symptomatic - both culture and NAAT are recommended

You can access additional information on gonorrhea testing and treatment through the [Canadian Guidelines for Sexually Transmitted Infections](#), and on testing through [Public Health Ontario's laboratory](#).

Thank you and wishing you all the best for 2025.

Sincerely,

Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health

c:

Dr. Kieran Moore, Chief Medical Officer of Health and Assistant Deputy Minister, Ontario Ministry of Health

Liz Walker, Executive Lead, Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health, Public Health, Ontario Ministry of Health

Dr. Michael Sherar, President and Chief Executive Officer, Public Health Ontario

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