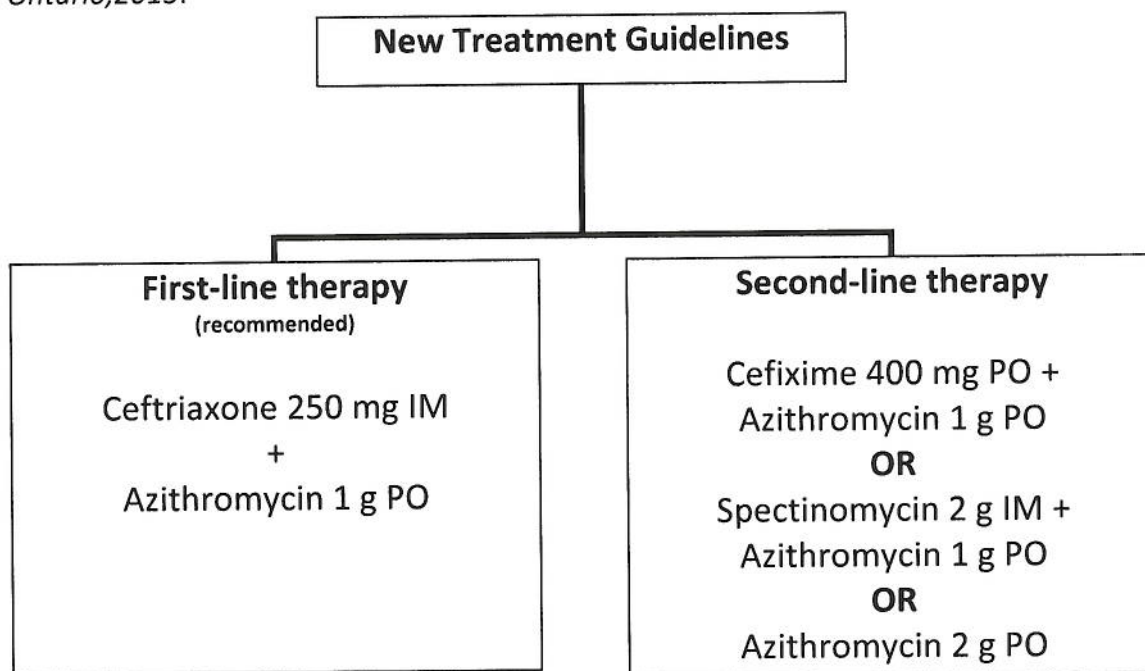


## NEW Guidelines for Testing and Treatment of Gonorrhoea in Ontario May 2013

In response to increasing resistance of *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* (*N.gonorrhoeae*) to the cephalosporins, the last available class of antibiotics recommended for treatment, Public Health Ontario (PHO) has developed the *Guidelines for Testing and Treatment of Gonorrhoea in Ontario, 2013*.



For your convenience, a copy of the Quick Reference Guide is attached to this notice. To access the full version of the guidelines and associated reference materials, including FAQs, Quick Reference Guide and an Online Training Module, go to the PHO website:

[www.oahpp.ca/resources/gonorrhoea-guideline.html](http://www.oahpp.ca/resources/gonorrhoea-guideline.html)

Please contact the **Health Unit's Sexual Health Clinic (613) 966-5513, ext. 243**, with any questions. Call on a case by case basis regarding your or your patient's access to timely treatment - all medications are publicly funded for the treatment of gonorrhoea and can be made available to you for patient use.

Gonorrhoea is a reportable disease and any suspect or treatment failures should also be reported to the health unit.

# Guidelines for Testing and Treatment of Gonorrhea in Ontario, 2013

## Quick Reference Guide

Increasing resistance of *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* to cefixime and associated clinical failures have been identified in Ontario, and worldwide. These new guidelines provide recommendations for effective testing and treatment of *N. gonorrhoeae*.

### Testing for gonorrhea infections

All sexually active persons who have signs and symptoms of *N. gonorrhoeae* infection should be tested. Consideration should also be given to laboratory screening of asymptomatic persons who have risk factors for *N. gonorrhoeae*.

### Symptoms of gonorrhea infection

#### men

- acute urethritis, urethral discharge and/or dysuria
- testicular pain, swelling or symptoms of epididymitis
- rectal pain and discharge (if proctitis is present)

#### women

- vaginal discharge, dysuria, and/or abnormal vaginal bleeding
- lower abdominal pain, pain and/or bleeding during intercourse
- rectal pain and discharge (if proctitis is present)

### Risk factors for gonorrhea infection\*

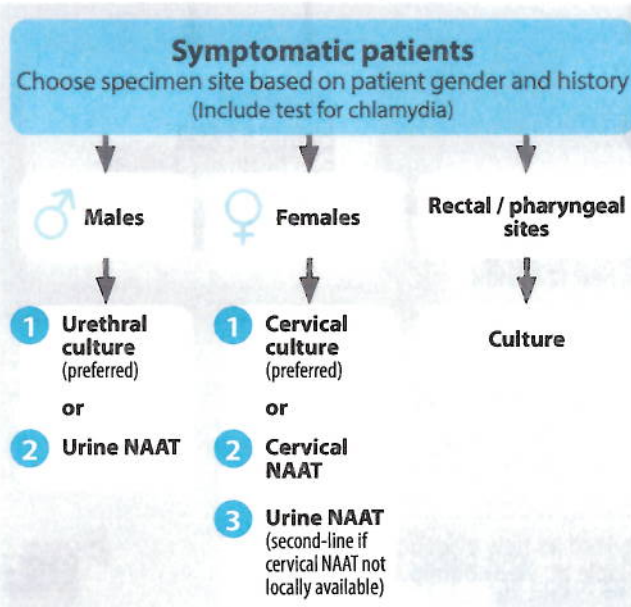
- Sexually active youth <25 years of age with multiple partners
- Sex workers and their sexual partners
- Men who have sex with men
- Street-involved youth
- Those who have had contact with a person with proven gonorrhea infection or a compatible syndrome
- Individuals with a history of gonorrhea or other STI infection

\*in addition to unprotected sexual exposure

- Up to 50% of urogenital infections in women and up to 10% of urogenital infections in men are asymptomatic
- Rectal and pharyngeal infections are often asymptomatic

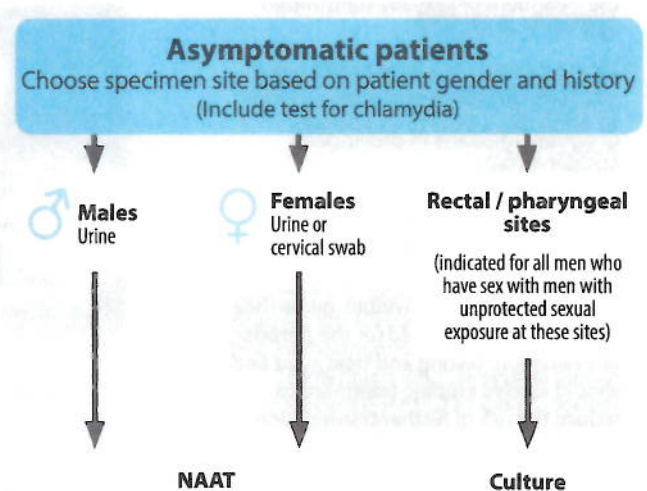
### Gonorrhea Testing Recommendations

(for individuals presenting with symptoms and risk factors consistent with gonorrhea)



### Gonorrhea Screening Recommendations

(for individuals presenting with risk factors for gonorrhea, but without associated symptoms)





# Guidelines for Testing and Treatment of Gonorrhea in Ontario, 2013

## Quick Reference Guide

### Indications for treatment

- Based on clinical assessment and/or risk behaviours following testing but before results are available
- Identification of Gram-negative intracellular diplococci by microscopy in male urethral samples
- Confirmed culture or NAAT specimen for *N. gonorrhoeae*
- Epidemiological link to gonorrhea case
- Following sexual assault
- Mother of neonate with confirmed *N. gonorrhoeae* infection

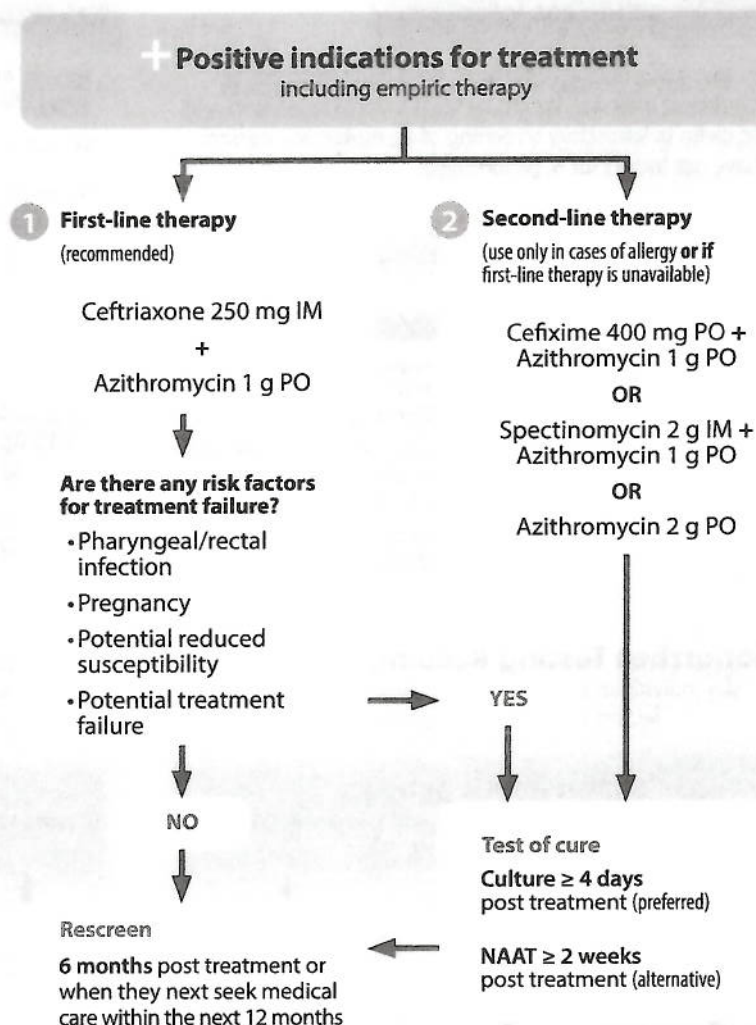
### Reporting and program support

- Gonorrhea is a reportable disease in Ontario.
- Health care professionals are asked to report any suspected or confirmed gonorrhea treatment failures to their local Medical Officer of Health.
- Health care professionals can have access to provincially funded drugs for the treatment of sexually transmitted infections, at no cost.
- Please contact your local health unit if you have questions regarding reporting or obtaining access to provincially funded drugs.

### Contact tracing

- Sexual partners of individual gonorrhea cases should be notified for the purpose of evaluation, testing and treatment and should receive empiric treatment to reduce the risk of further transmission

## Treatment recommendations and follow-up of uncomplicated urethral, endocervical, pharyngeal, and rectal gonorrhea



This quick reference guide is current as of April 2013, and may be revised as new evidence becomes available. For more information the full guidelines are available at: [www.oahpp.ca](http://www.oahpp.ca). If you have any questions please contact Public Health Ontario at [cd@oahpp.ca](mailto:cd@oahpp.ca).