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TO: St. Clair County Healthcare
Providers, Hospital ICPs, Emergency
Departments, ED Physicians, Clinicians

FROM: Chris Czubachowski RN, BS
SCCHD C.D. Coordinator
P: 810- 987-5300 F: 810-985-4340

ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE THREATENS GONORRHEA TREATMENT

While combination therapy currently recommended by the CDC is still effective, resistance to azithromycin to treat gonorrhea is emerging. To date, no treatment failures have been reported in the United States. Signs of emerging resistance to azithromycin suggest that this drug will be next in the long line of antibiotics to which gonorrhea bacteria have become resistant.

Recommendations:

- Take a sexual history. This will help to identify which STDs to test for and at which anatomic sites.
- Adhere to CDC's recommendations by always treating gonorrhea promptly with a **combination of injectable ceftriaxone and oral azithromycin**, including post-treatment testing to confirm cure when recommended (www.cdc.gov/std/treatment).
- Evaluate and treat all patients' sex partners from the previous 60 days.
- Obtain cultures to test for decreased susceptibility from any patients with suspected or documented gonorrhea treatment failures.
- Report any suspected treatment failure to St. Clair County Health Department, helping to ensure that any potential resistance is recognized early.

Call SCCHD with questions or to report suspect cases (810) 987-5300.