



Durham Region Health Department FAX about...

For Health Care Professionals



Multidrug-Resistant Gonorrhoea

Recent international reports, including from [Europe](#) and the [USA](#), have identified a multidrug-resistant strain of *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*. Through routine provincial disease surveillance activities, an Ontario patient with no known travel history was recently identified as having a gonorrhoea infection with a similar resistance pattern (i.e. reduced susceptibility to ceftriaxone and cefixime, and resistance to ciprofloxacin, penicillin, and tetracycline), suggesting circulation of this multi-drug resistant strain within Ontario.

Recommended actions for clinicians

For all patients with suspected gonorrhoea infection, collect swabs for *N. gonorrhoeae* culture **as well as** specimens for NAAT testing for *N. gonorrhoeae* from all potentially exposed sites (e.g., urethral/cervical, pharyngeal, rectal). It is recommended that you collect both types of specimens for all patients given that NAAT is more sensitive, and culture allows assessment for drug sensitivity. Swabs should be received within 48 hours if possible but will be accepted by Public Health Ontario Laboratory up to 72 hours after collection. For additional details on specimen collection and submission, please see the Public Health Ontario [Test Information Index](#).

As per the [Canadian Guidelines on Sexually Transmitted Infections](#) (CGSTI), test of cure is currently recommended for **ALL** positive cases of *N. gonorrhoeae* **at all positive sites**. Culture is the preferred method for test of cure and should be performed 3-7 days after completion of treatment. If culture is not available, test of cure by NAAT will also be accepted and should be performed at 2-3 weeks post-treatment. For any questions related to testing, please contact Public Health Ontario's Customer Service Centre (416-235-6556 or 1-877-604-4567 or by email: customerservicecentre@oahpp.ca).

Gonorrhoea is reportable to DRHD. Please indicate if it is a multi-drug resistant gonorrhoea infection.

- Phone: 905-668-2020 or 1-800-841-2729 ext. 2996
- Confidential Fax: 905-666-6215
- Access the Notification Form for Diseases of Public Health Significance at www.durham.ca/hcp under Forms, Reporting

As a reminder, the current CGSTI guidance is to re-screen persons with gonorrhoea infection at 6 months post-treatment or else at the first follow up appointment within 12 months, given risks of re-infection due to ongoing or repeat exposure.

April 3, 2023

905-668-2020 or 1-800-841-2729 | durham.ca/health

If you require this information in an accessible format, contact 1-800-841-2729.

