



April 26, 2018

Dear Partners in Prevention,

Today, we released a [new analysis](#) in CDC's *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR)*, "Adherence to CDC Recommendations for the Treatment of Uncomplicated Gonorrhea, STD Surveillance Network (SSuN), 2016".

These data show that **for the majority of patients, providers are treating gonorrhea as CDC recommends**. Overall, 81% of patients diagnosed with gonorrhea were treated using dual therapy with ceftriaxone and azithromycin. In recent years, CDC has only recommended this drug combination to potentially slow the emergence and spread of drug resistance.

The article also underscores that **STD and reproductive health clinics provide quality STD care**. Patients diagnosed in these specific healthcare settings were the most likely to receive the recommended regimen (91% and 94% respectively) compared to 80% in other healthcare settings.

While we are encouraged by these results, there is room for improvement. **Nearly 1 in 5 patients were treated with a different regimen**. The analysis found substantial differences by healthcare setting, with private providers and those in urgent/emergent care less likely to treat with the recommended regimen.

Another concerning finding: a majority of cases treated with other regimens were treated with monotherapy (including 3% of all cases treated with only azithromycin). Gonorrhea *should not* be treated with azithromycin alone – doing so may accelerate emerging resistance and increase the possibility that the patient may not be cured of their infection.

Slowing the threat of drug resistance hinges on healthcare providers following CDC treatment recommendations. STD and reproductive health clinics are doing an excellent job; however, we want to see *all* healthcare settings performing at this level.

So what does this mean for you? Local and state health departments should monitor adherence to recommendations in their jurisdictions. In addition, continue working with providers and patients to assure timely detection and treatment of gonorrhea according to current CDC treatment recommendations.

The data from this analysis was made possible by SSuN. Learn more about how it helps to shed light on STDs and how programs are harnessing its power for STD prevention in this [brand new success story](#).

Thank you for your commitment to STD Prevention.

Best Regards,
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