



**State of Louisiana**  
Department of Health and Hospitals  
Office of Public Health

**PUBLIC HEALTH ALERT  
RESISTANT GONORRHEA**

**MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Medical Providers

**From:** Jimmy Guidry, M.D.   
State Health Officer/DHH Medical Director

**Date:** May 9, 2012

**Subject:** Cases of Resistant Gonorrhea

The Louisiana Office of Public Health, which administers the CDC-funded Gonococcal Isolate Surveillance Project (GISP) in New Orleans, is alerting Louisiana physicians that isolates of *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* (the causative organism of gonorrhea) from several patients in the New Orleans area have shown laboratory culture resistance to oral cephalosporins. Additionally, one isolate has been shown to be at the upper limit of sensitivity to ceftriaxone; i.e. near the level to be labeled resistant to ceftriaxone. Resistance to these drugs has been shown in other areas of the United States and abroad.

The latest recommended treatment from the United States Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for persons with gonorrhea and their sexual partners/contacts is:

***Ceftriaxone 250 mg IM STAT and Azithromycin 1 gm PO STAT***

***IF ALLERGIC TO PENICILLIN: Azithromycin 2 gm PO STAT***

It should be noted that the recommended treatment for persons with gonorrhea is applicable to cervical, urethral, pharyngeal and anal/rectal infection.

If you are interested in learning more about this topic, there will be a live webinar presented by the CDC regarding resistant gonorrhea on May 15, 2012 at 12:00 noon (cst). To register, go to: [www.cdc.gov/about/grand-rounds](http://www.cdc.gov/about/grand-rounds). Additionally, the recent CDC STD Treatment Guidelines can be found at [www.cdc.gov/std/treatment/2010/default.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/std/treatment/2010/default.htm).