



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH
LANSING

JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

JANET OLSZEWSKI
DIRECTOR

March 21, 2003

Dear Medical Director:

Three cases of quinolone-resistant gonorrhea have been identified in Ingham County since the beginning of this year. Although quinolone-resistant gonorrhea has emerged in Hawaii and California, Michigan identified only one case in 2001 and one in 2002, both of which were connected to travel in Asia. The three new cases, however, report no recent travel and do not appear to have common partners.

As a result of these new cases and based on recommendations by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, we are advising that all gonorrhea cases in Ingham and adjoining counties (Clinton, Eaton, Jackson, Livingston, and Shiawassee) be treated with a non-quinolone regimen such as ceftriaxone, cefixime, or spectinomycin.

Counties outside the six-county area mentioned above are advised to ask patients suspected of having gonorrhea about recent travel and that of their sexual partners. If a patient reports sexual contact with residents of Asia, Hawaii, California, or the six-county area in Michigan, they, too, should be treated with a non-quinolone regimen.

All patients, regardless of residence, who do not respond to treatment should be **cultured**, and clinical laboratories processing the samples should be directed to submit *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* isolates recovered to the Michigan Department of Community Health laboratory in Lansing for susceptibility testing. For information on submitting specimens to MDCH, call Dr. James Rudrik, Manager of the Microbiology Section of the MDCH laboratory, at 517-335-9641.

Please alert the physicians, hospitals, and laboratories in your jurisdiction to these recommendations. We greatly appreciate your cooperation with our efforts to prevent further transmission of quinolone-resistant gonorrhea in Michigan.

Sincerely,

David R. Johnson, MD, MPH
Deputy Director for Public Health
and Chief Medical Executive