



## 2013 Advisory : Doxycycline Shortage and Treatment of Sexually Transmitted Infections

- **Doxycycline tablets and capsules are currently available in limited supplies.**
- **CDC-recommended alternative regimens not containing doxycycline widely available, impact on patients minimal**

January 29, 2013

Dear Colleagues,

On January 18, 2013, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) reported a shortage of doxycycline on January 18, 2013. Doxycycline is a recommended therapy for some sexually transmitted infections and syndromes including chlamydia, nongonococcal urethritis, epididymitis and pelvic inflammatory disease. It is also an alternative therapy for syphilis in patients with a penicillin allergy. Doxycycline tablets/capsules are currently available in limited supplies. For additional information about the availability of doxycycline, visit the FDA Drug Shortage Website <http://www.fda.gov/Drugs/DrugSafety/DrugShortages/ucm050792.htm> Other CDC recommended and additional alternative regimens are listed below and outlined in the 2010 STD Treatment Guidelines <http://www.cdc.gov/std/treatment/2010/default.htm>

*Chlamydia and Nongonococcal urethritis*  
Azithromycin 1 g orally in a single dose

*Gonorrhea*  
Ceftriaxone 250 mg IM in a single dose  
PLUS  
Azithromycin 1 g orally in a single dose

*Syphilis (penicillin allergic)*  
Primary or secondary syphilis  
Tetracycline 500 mg orally four times daily for 14 days

Late latent syphilis  
Tetracycline 500 mg orally four times daily for 28 days

*Epididymitis*  
Ceftriaxone 250 mg IM in a single dose  
PLUS  
Tetracycline 500 mg four times daily for 10 days

*Pelvic Inflammatory Disease\**  
Ceftriaxone 250 mg IM in a single dose  
PLUS  
Clindamycin 450 mg orally four times daily for 14 days  
WITH OR WITHOUT  
Metronidazole 500 mg orally twice a day for 14 days  
\*see STD Treatment Guidelines for additional regimens

Sincerely,

*Susan Blank*

Susan Blank, MD MPH  
Assistant Commissioner  
Bureau of STD Control

### **Resources**

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Doxycycline Shortage Announcement  
<http://www.cdc.gov/std/treatment/doxycyclineShortage.htm>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention 2010 STD Treatment Guidelines  
<http://www.cdc.gov/std/treatment/2010/default.htm>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention STD Guidance  
<http://www.cdc.gov/std/default.htm>

FDA Drug Shortage Website  
<http://www.fda.gov/Drugs/DrugSafety/DrugShortages/ucm050792.htm>