

Gonorrhoea and Antimicrobial Resistance

A [letter](#) from the Department of Health was sent to all GPs in England in December 2015 regarding the importance of antimicrobial stewardship when treating gonorrhoea due to serious concerns about resistance and significant risks of untreatable disease. Although this letter has not been issued in Scotland the information is still relevant and it is therefore timely to highlight our local advice to prescribers.

NHS Tayside [guidance](#) is available for all primary care staff on testing for gonorrhoea. Local treatment guidelines are in line with the national guidance (injectable ceftriaxone and oral azithromycin). All positive tests should be referred to the Sexual Health service for review and treatment. If a patient will not agree to attend then the GP can obtain support and advice from the Consultant team via phone (07805762572) or email (Tay-UHB.TSRH@nhs.net).

For patients who present as a potential sexual contact, a full sexual health screen should be offered but antibiotic treatment should **not** be prescribed without testing. The oral antibiotic regime of cefixime and azithromycin is considered sub-optimal treatment and will increase the risk of resistance.

Prescribers are also reminded that testing is recommended in men presenting with UTI or epididymo-orchitis (follow [local guidance](#)) if they are under 35 or have had a new sexual partner in the last 3 months.

Antimicrobial Management Team
and Sexual Health Service

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