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Health Notification

Doxycycline Shortage

February 20, 2013

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) reported a shortage of doxycycline on January 18, 2013. Since the initial announcement, the CDC has been made aware that tetracycline is also unavailable. 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 and capsules are currently available in limited supplies. For additional information about the availability of doxycycline, visit the FDA Drug Shortage Website at <http://www.fda.gov/Drugs/DrugSafety/DrugShortages/ucm314739.htm#doxycycline>. Other CDC-recommended and additional alternative regimens are listed below and outlined in the 2010 STD Treatment Guidelines [MMWR Dec 17, 2010/59/No RR-12].

Some pharmacies may still have a supply of doxycycline, but many may not. If you are unable to obtain doxycycline for your patients, the following alternatives are recommended by the CDC:

- *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

- *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

For treatment of **syphilis in non-pregnant patients with penicillin allergy** and outpatient treatment of **epididymitis** please contact the PDPH STD Control program at 215-685-6737 for recommendations or to obtain a supply of doxycycline.