

Current Cefixime Shortage in Canada

Attention: Physicians, Hospital Emergency Departments, Nurse Practitioners, Walk-In Clinics, Infection Control Practitioners, Obstetricians/Gynecologists, Pharmacists including ER pharmacies

Date: October 21, 2014

The Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) has issued a statement regarding the current and anticipated shortage of Cefixime until September 2015. PHAC and Health Canada are working closely to develop options to mitigate the shortage.

Based on antibiotic resistance data, Public Health Ontario recommends Ceftriaxone 250mg plus Azithromycin 1 gm as the first-line treatment for gonorrhea. Cefixime 400mg plus Azithromycin 1gm is only a second-line treatment regimen for gonorrhea in Ontario.

Many local pharmacists have indicated that they are unable to get Cefixime at the moment. If you prescribe Cefixime, please be aware that clients may have trouble accessing it.

For more detailed information on the diagnosis and treatment of STIs including gonorrhea, please go to the sexual health section of our primary care portal www.smdhu.org/pcportal

The health unit offers certain STI medications to health care providers for use in their practices. If you would like to take advantage of this opportunity to have Ceftriaxone, Azithromycin and Doxycycline available in your office please give us a call to coordinate.

Please contact the Sexual Health Program at 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520 extension 8831 with any questions or comments, or to:

- Access medications to treat sexually transmitted infections (STI)
- Report STI cases and contacts
- **Report STI treatment failures**
- Access current STI testing, treatment and counseling guidelines