

2021 CDC SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTION (STI) TREATMENT GUIDELINES SUMMARY STD CONTROL PROGRAM – RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

These guidelines for treatment of STIs reflect recommendations of the [CDC STI Treatment Guidelines](#). These guidelines focus on STIs encountered in outpatient settings and are not an exhaustive list of effective treatments. Please refer to the complete CDC document for more information, or call the STD Program, or see <http://health.ri.gov/diseases/sexuallytransmitted/for/providers/>. Clinical and epidemiological services are available through the DSTDP including staff to assist healthcare providers with confidential notification of sexual partners of patients with STIs and/or HIV. Contact information for **Partner Services** and to **Report Cases**: (401) 222-2577. FAX (401) 222-1105. STD Program, Rhode Island Department of Health, Room 106, 3 Capitol Hill, Providence, RI 02908.

DISEASE	RECOMMENDED TREATMENT	ALTERNATIVES (use only if recommended regimens are contraindicated)
SYPHILIS		
ADULTS PRIMARY, SECONDARY OR EARLY LATENT (<1 YEAR)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Benzathine penicillin G 2.4 million units IM once 	<p>(For penicillin-allergic non-pregnant patients only)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Doxycycline¹ 100 mg orally 2 times a day for 14 days OR Tetracycline 500 mg orally 4 times a day for 14 days <p>See complete CDC guidelines for additional alternatives.</p>
ADULTS LATE LATENT (>1 YEAR) OR LATENT OF UNKNOWN DURATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Benzathine penicillin G 2.4 million units IM for 3 doses at 1 week intervals (total 7.2 million units) 	<p>(For penicillin-allergic non-pregnant patients only)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Doxycycline¹ 100 mg orally 2 times a day for 28 days OR Tetracycline 500 mg orally 4 times a day for 28 days <p>See complete CDC guidelines for additional alternatives.</p>
NEUROSYPHILIS OCULAR SYPHILIS OTOSYPHILIS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aqueous crystalline penicillin G 18-24 million units per day, administered as 3-4 million units IV every 4 hours or continuous infusion, for 10-14 days² 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Procaine penicillin G 2.4 million units IM once daily PLUS probenecid 500 mg orally 4 times a day, both for 10-14 days² <p>See complete CDC guidelines for additional alternatives.</p>
CHILDREN PRIMARY, SECONDARY OR EARLY LATENT (<1 YEAR)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Benzathine penicillin G 50,000 units/kg IM once, up to adult dose of 2.4 million units 	No specific alternative regimens exist.
CHILDREN LATE LATENT (>1 YEAR) OR LATENT OF UNKNOWN DURATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Benzathine penicillin G 50,000 units/kg IM (up to adult dose of 2.4 million units) for 3 doses at 1 week intervals (up to total adult dose of 7.2 million units) 	
CONGENITAL SYPHILIS	See complete CDC guidelines.	
HIV INFECTION	Same stage-specific recommendations as for HIV-negative persons.	
PREGNANCY	Penicillin is the only recommended treatment for syphilis during pregnancy. Pregnant individuals who are allergic should be desensitized and treated with penicillin. Minimum penicillin treatment is the same as in non-pregnant patients for each stage of syphilis, but pregnant individuals with primary, secondary, or early latent syphilis can receive a second dose of benzathine penicillin G 2.4 million units IM, 1 week after initial dose, based on evidence indicating additional therapy is beneficial to prevent congenital syphilis. See complete CDC guidelines.	
<p>All Suspect Syphilis Cases: Call the STD Registry at (401) 222-2577 for past titers and treatment.</p>		
GNONOCOCCAL INFECTIONS³		
ADULTS, ADOLESCENTS, AND CHILDREN >45 - <150 KG PHARYNGEAL, UROGENITAL, RECTAL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ceftriaxone 500 mg IM once⁴ <p>Note: Treatment of pharyngeal gonorrhea should be followed by a test-of-cure 7-14 days after treatment.⁵</p>	<p>For urogenital or rectal infections ONLY,⁶ if ceftriaxone is not available:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gentamicin 240 mg IM once PLUS Azithromycin 2 g orally once (if cephalosporin allergy) OR Cefixime 800 mg orally once
<p>Partner Management: Empiric treatment of all sexual contacts during the 60 days preceding symptom onset or, if asymptomatic, date of diagnosis.</p>		
ADULTS AND ADOLESCENTS CONJUNCTIVAL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ceftriaxone 1 g IM once plus consider lavage of infected eye with saline solution once 	No specific alternative regimens exist.
ADULTS AND ADOLESCENTS ARTHRITIS, ARTHRITIS-DERMATITIS ⁷	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ceftriaxone 1 g IM or IV every 24 hours 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cefotaxime 1 g IV every 8 hours OR Ceftizoxime 1 g IV every 8 hours
CHILDREN ≤45 KG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ceftriaxone 25-50 mg/kg IV or IM once (max 500 mg) 	No specific alternative regimens exist.
NEONATES OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM INFANTS BORN TO INFECTED MOTHERS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ceftriaxone 25-50 mg/kg IV or IM once⁸ 	<p>For neonates unable to receive ceftriaxone due to co-administration of intravenous calcium:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cefotaxime 100 mg/kg IV or IM once
CHLAMYDIAL INFECTIONS		
ADULTS AND ADOLESCENTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Doxycycline¹ 100 mg orally 2 times a day for 7 days⁹ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Azithromycin 1 g orally once OR Levofloxacin¹⁰ 500 mg orally once a day for 7 days
<p>Partner Management: Expedited partner therapy (EPT) is allowed in Rhode Island for treatment of partners of patients infected with chlamydia. For more information, go to www.health.ri.gov/diseases/sexuallytransmitted/for/providers/.</p>	CHILDREN AGED ≥8 YEARS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Azithromycin 1 g orally once OR Doxycycline¹ 100 mg orally 2 times a day for 7 days⁹
	CHILDREN AGED <8 YEARS AND ≥45 KG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Azithromycin 1 g orally once
	CHILDREN <45 KG AND NEONATES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Erythromycin base or ethylsuccinate 50 mg/kg/day orally divided into four doses daily for 14 days^{11,12}
PREGNANCY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Azithromycin 1 g orally once 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amoxicillin 500 mg orally 3 times a day for 7 days¹⁴
NONGONOCOCCAL URETHRITIS¹⁵		
ADULTS PENILE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Doxycycline¹ 100 mg orally 2 times a day for 7 days 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Azithromycin 1 g orally once OR Azithromycin 500 mg orally once, then 250 mg orally once a day for 4 days
EPIDIDYMITIS		
LIKELY DUE TO CHLAMYDIA OR GONORRHEA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ceftriaxone 500 mg IM once⁴ PLUS Doxycycline¹ 100 mg orally 2 times a day for 10 days 	No specific alternative regimens exist.
LIKELY DUE TO CHLAMYDIA AND GONORRHEA OR ENTERIC ORGANISMS (PENILE-RECTAL EXPOSURE)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ceftriaxone 500 mg IM once⁴ PLUS Levofloxacin¹⁰ 500 mg orally once a day for 10 days 	
LIKELY DUE TO ENTERIC ORGANISMS ONLY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Levofloxacin¹⁰ 500 mg orally once a day for 10 days 	
CERVICITIS		
ADULTS AND ADOLESCENTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Doxycycline¹ 100 mg orally 2 times a day for 7 days 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Azithromycin 1 g orally once
PELVIC INFLAMMATORY DISEASE (outpatient management)		
ADULTS AND ADOLESCENTS >45 - <150 KG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ceftriaxone 500 mg IM once⁴ OR Cefoxitin 2 g IM once plus probenecid 1 g orally once OR Other parenteral third generation cephalosporin (e.g., ceftizoxime or cefotaxime) PLUS Doxycycline¹ 100 mg orally 2 times a day for 14 days PLUS Metronidazole¹⁶ 500 mg orally twice a day for 14 days 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> See complete CDC guidelines for alternatives.
PREGNANCY	Patients should be hospitalized and treated with recommended IV therapy (see complete CDC guidelines).	

¹ Doxycycline can cause skin photosensitivity. Doxycycline not recommended during pregnancy or for children <8 years of age. Effects of prolonged exposure via breast milk are not known. Consider risk of infant exposure, benefits of breastfeeding to infant, and benefits of treatment to mother in any decision to continue or discontinue breastfeeding during therapy.

² Durations of regimens for neurosyphilis, ocular syphilis, and otosyphilis are shorter than duration of regimen used for latent syphilis. Therefore, benzathine penicillin, 2.4 million units IM once per week for 1-3 weeks, can be considered after completion of these regimens to provide comparable total duration of therapy.

³ Dual therapy for gonococcal infection is no longer recommended for all patients with gonorrhea. If chlamydial infection has not been excluded, treat for chlamydia infection.

⁴ For persons weighing ≥150 kg, 1 g ceftriaxone should be administered.

⁵ Test of cure unnecessary in cases of uncomplicated urogenital or rectal gonorrhea treated with recommended or alternative regimens. All cases of pharyngeal gonorrhea should have test of cure 7-14 days after treatment by either NAAT and/or culture; however, NAAT performed closer to 7 days after treatment may be false-positive. If the NAAT is positive, perform confirmatory culture before retreatment, especially if culture was not already collected. If treatment failure suspected: culture, perform antimicrobial susceptibility testing, notify and consult with state health department, or an infectious disease specialist, or an STD clinical expert from the National Network of STD/HIV Prevention Training Centers (www.stdccn.org).

⁶ No reliable alternative treatments available for pharyngeal gonorrhea.

⁷ When treating for arthritis-dermatitis syndrome, switch to oral agent can be guided by antimicrobial susceptibility testing 24-48 hours after substantial clinical improvement, for total treatment course of at least 7 days.

⁸ Do not co-administer ceftriaxone with calcium-containing solutions. Ceftriaxone should be administered cautiously to neonates with hyperbilirubinemia, especially those born prematurely.

⁹ Doxycycline also available as delayed-release 200-mg tablet formulation, requiring once-daily dosing for 7 days (as effective as doxycycline 100 mg twice daily for 7 days for treating urogenital chlamydia infection).

¹⁰ Fluoroquinolone use associated with disabling and potentially irreversible serious adverse reactions that have occurred together, including tendinitis and tendon rupture, peripheral neuropathy, and CNS effects. Discontinue immediately and avoid use in patients who experience any of these serious adverse reactions. Reserve fluoroquinolones for use in patients with no better alternative treatment options.

¹¹ Erythromycin efficacy for treating neonatal chlamydial conjunctivitis and pneumonia is about 80%. A second course of therapy may be required.

¹² Association between both oral erythromycin and azithromycin and infantile hypertrophic pyloric stenosis (IHPS) has been reported in infants aged <6 weeks. Infants treated with either of these antimicrobials should be followed for IHPS signs and symptoms.

¹³ Data on efficacy of azithromycin for neonatal chlamydial conjunctivitis and pneumonia limited. Follow-up is recommended to assess response.

¹⁴ Amoxicillin listed as alternative therapy in pregnancy because of chlamydia persistence after exposure to penicillin-class antibiotics in animal and in vitro studies.

¹⁵ For persistent or recurrent nongonococcal urethritis, see complete CDC guidelines for recommended testing and treatment.

¹⁶ Multiple studies and meta-analyses have not demonstrated an association between metronidazole use during pregnancy and teratogenic or mutagenic effects in newborns. In lactating individuals administered metronidazole, withholding breastfeeding during treatment and for 12-24 hours after last dose will reduce exposure of infant to metronidazole.

DISEASE	RECOMMENDED TREATMENT	ALTERNATIVES (use only if recommended regimens are contraindicated)
LYMPHOGRANULOMA VENEREUM		
ADULTS AND ADOLESCENTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Doxycycline¹ 100 mg orally 2 times a day for 21 days 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Azithromycin 1 g orally once weekly for 3 weeks¹⁷ OR • Erythromycin base 500 mg orally 4 times a day for 21 days
CHANCROID		
ADULTS AND ADOLESCENTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Azithromycin 1 g orally once OR • Ceftriaxone 250 mg IM once OR • Ciprofloxacin¹⁰ 500 mg orally 2 times a day for 3 days OR • Erythromycin base 500 mg orally 3 times a day for 7 days 	No specific alternative regimens exist.
BACTERIAL VAGINOSIS (BV)		
ADULTS AND ADOLESCENTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Metronidazole¹⁶ 500 mg orally 2 times a day for 7 days OR • Metronidazole gel 0.75%, 5 g intravag. once a day for 5 days OR • Clindamycin cream 2%, 5 g intravag. at bedtime for 7 days¹⁸ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clindamycin 300 mg orally 2 times a day for 7 days OR • Clindamycin ovules 100 mg intravag. at bedtime for 3 days¹⁸ OR ♦ Secnidazole 2 g oral granules orally once¹⁹ OR • Tinidazole²⁰ 2 g orally once daily for 2 days OR • Tinidazole²⁰ 1 g orally once daily for 5 days
PREGNANCY	Treatment is recommended for all symptomatic pregnant individuals. ²¹	
TRICHOMONIASIS²²		
ADULTS VAGINAL AND CERVICAL	♦ Metronidazole ¹⁶ 500 mg orally 2 times a day for 7 days	• Tinidazole ²⁰ 2 g orally once
ADULTS PENILE	• Metronidazole 2 g orally once	
PEDICULOSIS PUBIS²³		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Permethrin 1% cream rinse applied to affected areas, wash off after 10 minutes OR • Pyrethrin with piperonyl butoxide applied to affected areas, wash off after 10 minutes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Malathion 0.5% lotion applied to affected areas, wash off after 8-12 hours OR • Ivermectin²⁴ 250 mcg/kg orally once, repeated in 1 - 2 weeks
SCABIES		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Permethrin²⁵ 5% cream applied to all areas of body from neck down, wash off after 8-14 hours OR • Ivermectin²⁴ 200 mcg/kg orally, repeated in 2 weeks ♦ Ivermectin 1% lotion applied to all areas of body from neck down, wash off after 8-14 hours; repeat in 1 week if symptoms persist 	• Lindane ²⁶ 1% 1 oz of lotion or 30 g of cream applied thinly to all areas of body from neck down, wash off after 8 hours
GENITAL HERPES SIMPLEX		
ADULTS AND ADOLESCENTS FIRST CLINICAL EPISODE ²⁷	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acyclovir 400 mg orally 3 times a day for 7-10 days²⁸ OR • Famciclovir²⁹ 250 mg orally 3 times a day for 7-10 days OR • Valacyclovir 1 g orally 2 times a day for 7-10 days 	
ADULTS AND ADOLESCENTS SUPPRESSIVE THERAPY FOR RECURRENT GENITAL HERPES (HSV-2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acyclovir 400 mg orally 2 times a day OR • Valacyclovir 500 mg orally once a day³⁰ OR • Valacyclovir 1 g orally once a day OR • Famciclovir²⁹ 250 mg orally 2 times a day 	
ADULTS AND ADOLESCENTS EPISODIC THERAPY FOR RECURRENT GENITAL HERPES (HSV-2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acyclovir 800 mg orally 2 times a day for 5 days³¹ OR • Acyclovir 800 mg orally 3 times a day for 2 days OR • Famciclovir²⁹ 1 g orally 2 times a day for 1 day OR • Famciclovir²⁹ 500 mg orally once, followed by 250 mg orally 2 times a day for 2 days OR • Famciclovir²⁹ 125 mg orally 2 times a day for 5 days OR • Valacyclovir 500 mg orally 2 times a day for 3 days OR • Valacyclovir 1 g orally once a day for 5 days 	
HIV INFECTION PREGNANCY	Higher doses and/or longer therapy recommended. See complete CDC guidelines.	
GENITAL WARTS		
	External or Perianal³²	Urethral Meatus
PROVIDER-ADMINISTERED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cryotherapy with liquid nitrogen or cryoprobe. Repeat applications every 1-2 weeks if necessary OR • Surgical removal OR • Trichloroacetic acid (TCA) or bichloroacetic acid (BCA) 80% -90%. Apply small amount only to warts. Allow to dry. If excess amount applied, powder with talc, baking soda or liquid soap. Repeat weekly if necessary. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cryotherapy with liquid nitrogen OR • Surgical removal OR • TCA or BCA 80%-90%. Apply small amount only to warts. Allow to dry. If excess amount applied, powder with talc, baking soda or liquid soap. Repeat weekly if necessary.
PATIENT-APPLIED		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Imiquimod 5% cream.³³ Apply once daily at bedtime 3 times a week for up to 16 weeks. Wash treatment area with soap and water 6-10 hours after application OR • Imiquimod 3.75% cream.³³ Apply once daily at bedtime every day for up to 8 weeks. Wash treatment area with soap and water 6-10 hours after application OR • Podofilox 0.5% solution or gel.³⁴ Apply 2 times a day for 3 days, followed by 4 days of no therapy, 4 cycles max. Total wart area should not exceed 10 cm² and total volume applied daily not to exceed 0.5 ml OR • Sinecatechins 15% ointment.³⁵ Applied 3 times a day for up to 16 weeks. Do not wash off. 		Vaginal³⁶, Cervical³⁷ or Intra-Anal³⁸



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STD/HIV
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Massachusetts Department of Public Health
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¹⁷ Because this regimen has not been rigorously validated, a test-of-cure with *C. trachomatis* nucleic acid amplification test (NAAT) 4 weeks after completion of treatment can be considered.

¹⁸ Clindamycin cream and ovules are oil-based and may weaken latex condoms and diaphragms for 5 days after use (refer to clindamycin product labeling for additional information). Although older studies indicated a possible link between use of vaginal clindamycin during pregnancy and adverse outcomes for the newborn, newer data demonstrate that this treatment approach is safe for pregnant individuals.

¹⁹ Oral granules should be sprinkled onto unsweetened applesauce, yogurt, or pudding before ingestion. A glass of water can be taken after administration to aid in swallowing.

²⁰ Tinidazole safety during pregnancy is not established. Interruption of breastfeeding is recommended during treatment and for 3 days after last dose.

²¹ Because oral therapy has not been shown to be superior to topical therapy for treating symptomatic BV in effecting cure or preventing adverse outcomes in pregnancy, symptomatic pregnant individuals can be treated with either oral or vaginal regimens recommended for nonpregnant individuals, except as noted. Metronidazole 250 mg orally 3 times a day for 7 days can also be used for pregnant individuals with symptomatic BV.

²² For persistent or recurrent trichomoniasis, see complete CDC guidelines for recommended testing and treatment.

²³ Lindane is no longer recommended because of toxicity. Pregnant or lactating individuals should be treated either with permethrin or pyrethrin with piperonyl butoxide.

²⁴ Ivermectin not recommended for pregnant or lactating individuals, or children who weigh <15 kg.

²⁵ Permethrin is the preferred treatment in infants and young children.

²⁶ Lindane is an alternative regimen because it can cause toxicity; it should be used only if recommended therapies cannot be tolerated or if recommended therapies have failed. Lindane is not to be used immediately after a bath, or in persons with extensive dermatitis, or in individuals who are pregnant or lactating, or children aged <10 years.

²⁷ Treatment can be extended if healing is incomplete after 10 days of therapy.

²⁸ Acyclovir 200 mg orally 5 times a day for 7-10 days is also effective but no longer recommended because of frequency of dosing.

²⁹ Famciclovir can be used in adolescents and children ≥45 kg.

³⁰ Valacyclovir 500 mg once a day might be less effective than other dosing regimens for persons who have frequent recurrences (i.e., ≥10 episodes/year).

³¹ Acyclovir 400 mg orally 3 times a day for 5 days is also effective but not recommended because of frequency of dosing.

³² Persons with external anal or peri-anal warts might also have intra-anal warts. Thus, persons with external anal warts might benefit from an inspection of the anal canal by digital examination, standard anoscopy, or high-resolution anoscopy.

³³ May weaken condoms and vaginal diaphragms. Data from studies of humans are limited regarding use of imiquimod in pregnancy, but animal data suggest imiquimod poses low risk.

³⁴ Podofilox is contraindicated in pregnancy.

³⁵ Sinecatechins not recommended for HIV-infected persons, immunocompromised persons, or persons with clinical genital herpes. Safety of sinecatechins in pregnancy is unknown.

³⁶ Cryoprobe is not recommended because of risk for vaginal perforation and fistula formation.

³⁷ Management should include consultation with a specialist. Exophytic cervical warts warrant biopsy to exclude high-grade squamous intraepithelial lesions before treatment is initiated.

³⁸ Management should include consultation with a specialist. Many persons with anal warts may also have them in the rectal mucosa. Inspect rectal mucosa by digital examination or anoscopy.