On December 18, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released an Update to CDC’s Treatment Guidelines for Gonococcal Infection, 2020.

CDC no longer recommends a 2-drug approach to gonorrhea treatment. Rather, CDC now recommends a single 500 mg IM dose of ceftriaxone for treatment of uncomplicated urogenital, anorectal, and pharyngeal gonorrhea. If chlamydial infection has not been excluded, concurrent treatment with doxycycline (100 mg orally twice a day for 7 days) is recommended.

**Rationale:**
- Increasing concern for azithromycin resistance and the impact of antimicrobials on the microbiome have led to the recommendation that azithromycin no longer be used as a first line treatment for gonorrhea
- Pharmacokinetic and pharmacodynamic modeling has affected the understanding of optimal antimicrobial dosing for N. gonorrhoeae treatment, increasing the ceftriaxone dosage to 500 mg

**Special Considerations:**
- For persons weighing ≥150 kg (300 lbs), a single 1 g IM dose of ceftriaxone should be administered
- Alternative regimens for persons with urogenital/rectal infection:
  - gentamicin 240 mg in a single IM dose + azithromycin 2 g orally as a single dose (cephalosporin allergy)
  - cefixime 800 mg orally as a single dose
- No reliable alternative treatments are available for pharyngeal gonorrhea

**Test of Cure:**
- For persons with pharyngeal gonorrhea, a test-of-cure is recommended 7–14 days after initial treatment
- All persons treated for gonorrhea should be retested 3 months after treatment

**Expedited Partner Therapy (EPT):**
- If unable to or unlikely to seek timely treatment, a partner may be treated with cefixime 800 mg orally as a single dose (plus oral doxycycline 100 mg twice daily for 7 days if chlamydia has not been excluded)

Further sexually transmitted disease resources can be found at [ptc.health.utah.gov](http://ptc.health.utah.gov).

**Recommended Tx for gonorrhea**
- ceftriaxone 500 mg in a single IM dose

**If chlamydia has not been excluded**
- + doxycycline 100 mg orally BID x 7 days