

Guidelines for Managing Sexually Transmitted Infections

**Communicable Disease Control Directorate
Health Protection Group**

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Health Protection Group of the
Department of Health, Western Australia.

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FOREWORD

For some years, the Western Australian Department of Health has experienced growing concern about the level of Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) in our community. In response to this concern, the Department initiated a process of consultation with health professionals, community and Aboriginal leaders to improve the management of STIs for all citizens of Western Australia.

As part of this process, guidelines for the management of notifiable STIs were published in 1997. In 2001, the second edition of the manual updated and expanded upon the first edition and was a continuation along the road to the better management and control of STIs in Western Australia. It included the syndromic approach to STIs and covered the notifiable infections as well as a range of non-notifiable infections. It also emphasised the important public health measures that are essential to the control of these infectious diseases. This third edition is a timely update of the second edition and includes new information about mandatory reporting requirements for STIs in minors, and changes to gonorrhoea treatment.

Good management of STIs is not only about the treatment of specific diseases but also results in the reduction of HIV transmission, minimises the infertility resulting from gonorrhoea and chlamydia infection and improves obstetric outcomes.

Obviously good clinical care is only one element required for STI control but this manual and the initiatives that will flow from it should provide a means of achieving better management of these important infections.



DR NEALE FONG

DIRECTOR GENERAL



LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ACCHS	Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Service
AGPS	Australian Government Publishing Service
AIDS	acquired immunodeficiency syndrome
ALT	alanine transaminase
ANCA	Australian National Council on AIDS
ANCARD	Australian National Council on AIDS and Related Diseases (now Ministerial Advisory Committee on AIDS, Sexual Health and Hepatitis)
ATSI	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander
BBV	blood-borne virus
CARPA	Central Australian Rural Practitioners' Association
CD4+ T lymphocyte	special type of lymphocyte
CDCD	Communicable Disease Control Directorate
CIN	cervical intra-epithelial neoplasia
CO₂	carbon dioxide
CSF	cerebrospinal fluid
DCD	Department of Community Development
DNA	deoxyribonucleic acid
DoH	Department of Health
DOT	directly observed therapy
ECS	endocervical swab
EIA	enzyme immunoassay
ESR	erythrocyte sedimentation rate
First void urine	first amount of urine passed (not midstream)
FTA-Abs	fluorescent treponemal antibody absorption test
GNID	Gram-negative intracellular diplococcus
GUD	genital ulcer disease
HAV	hepatitis A virus
HBIG	hepatitis B immunoglobulin
HBV	hepatitis B virus
HCV	hepatitis C virus
HIV	human immunodeficiency virus
HPF	high powered field
HPV	human papilloma virus
HSV	herpes simplex virus



List of abbreviations

IDU	injecting drug use
IgG	immunoglobulin G
IgM	immunoglobulin M
IU	international unit
IUD	intra-uterine device
LCR	ligase chain reaction
LGV	lymphogranuloma venereum
LGV-CFT	lymphogranuloma venereum complement fixation test
MC&S	microscopy, culture and sensitivity testing
N₂O	nitrous oxide
NAT	nucleic acid test*
NGU	non-gonococcal urethritis
NHMRC	National Health and Medical Research Council
NPEP	non-occupational post-exposure prophylaxis
NSU	non-specific urethritis
Pap smear	Papanicolaou smear
PBS	Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme
PCR	polymerase chain reaction
PEP	post-exposure prophylaxis
PHU	population/public health unit
PID	pelvic inflammatory disease
RNA	ribonucleic acid
RPR	rapid plasma reagin test
SARC	Sexual Assault Resource Centre
SOLVS	self-obtained low vaginal swab
SOPV	sex-on-premises venue
STD	sexually transmitted disease
STI	sexually transmitted infection
TPHA	<i>Treponema pallidum</i> haemagglutination test
TPPA	<i>Treponema pallidum</i> particle agglutination test
UTI	urinary tract infection
VDRL	Venereal Diseases Research Laboratory test
WA	Western Australia
WANIDD	WA Notifiable Infectious Diseases Database
WBC	white blood cell
WHO	World Health Organization

* The term "NAT" has been used throughout the Guidelines as a generic term, which includes "PCR" and "LCR".



Medicines in Pregnancy – An Australian categorisation of risk of drug use in pregnancy*

The categories defined below are limited to those referred to in these Guidelines. The categorisation applies only to recommended therapeutic doses in women in the reproductive age group. In situations such as overdose, occupational exposure and others when the recommended dose is exceeded, it cannot be assumed that the classifications assigned to individual medicines are valid.

Category A Drugs which have been taken by a large number of pregnant women and women of childbearing age without any proven increase in the frequency of malformations or other direct or indirect harmful effects on the fetus having been observed.

Category C Drugs which, owing to their pharmacological effects, have caused or may be suspected of causing harmful effects on the human fetus or neonate without causing malformations. These effects may be reversible. Accompanying texts should be consulted for further details.

* Based on: Medicines in Pregnancy Working Party of the Australian Drug Evaluation Committee 1999, *Prescribing medicines in pregnancy. An Australian categorisation of risk of drug use in pregnancy*, 4th edn, Therapeutic Goods Administration, Canberra, available at <www.tga.gov.au/docs/html/medpreg.htm> [accessed 09.06.06].



Category B1 Drugs which have been taken by only a limited number of pregnant women and women of childbearing age, without an increase in the frequency of malformation or other direct or indirect harmful effects on the human fetus having been observed. Studies in animals have not shown evidence of an increased occurrence of fetal damage.

Category B2 Drugs which have been taken by only a limited number of pregnant women and women of childbearing age, without an increase in the frequency of malformation or other direct or indirect harmful effects on the human fetus having been observed. Studies in animals are inadequate or may be lacking, but available data show no evidence of an increased occurrence of fetal damage.

Category B3 Drugs which have been taken by only a limited number of pregnant women and women of childbearing age, without an increase in the frequency of malformation or other direct or indirect harmful effects on the human fetus having been observed. Studies in animals have shown evidence of an increased occurrence of fetal damage, the significance of which is considered uncertain in humans.

For drugs in the B1, B2 and B3 categories, human data are lacking or inadequate, and subcategorisation is therefore based on available animal data. The allocation of a B category does not imply greater safety than the C category.



CONTACTS FOR SPECIALIST ADVICE ON STIs AND HIV

Specialist STI Patient Care

- ◆ Sexual Health Clinic, Royal Perth Hospital (08) 9224 2178
- ◆ Sexual Health Clinic, Infectious Diseases Department
Fremantle Hospital (08) 9431 2149

Specialist Investigations/Treatment

- ◆ Clinical Immunology (HIV only), Royal Perth Hospital (08) 9224 2899
- ◆ Infectious Diseases Department Fremantle Hospital (08) 9431 2149
- ◆ PathWest Laboratory Medicine WA, Queen Elizabeth II Medical Centre,
Microbiology and Infectious Diseases Department (08) 9346 3122/3625
- ◆ PathWest Laboratory Medicine WA, Royal Perth Hospital
Microbiology Department (08) 9224 2444
- ◆ PathWest Laboratory Medicine WA, Fremantle Hospital
& Health Service, Microbiology Department (08) 9431 2599/2627
After hours: (08) 9431 3333

Contact Tracing/Education

- ◆ North Metropolitan Population Health Service
(Communicable Disease Control) STI/HIV: (08) 9224 1663
Hepatitis A/B: (08) 9224 1603

Consumer Advice/Patient Support

- ◆ Derbarl Yerrigan Health Service (08) 9421 3888
- ◆ FPWA (Sexual Health Services) (08) 9227 6177
Sexual Health Helpline (08) 9227 6178
- ◆ Hepatitis Council of WA Inc (08) 9328 8538
Toll-free: 1800 800 070 (country callers)
- ◆ Magenta (sex worker organisation) (08) 9328 1387
- ◆ Quarry Health Centre (for under 25s) (08) 9430 4544
- ◆ Regional Population Health Units
see local telephone directory or Appendix D, page 203
- ◆ WA AIDS Council Inc. (08) 9482 0000
AIDSline (08) 9482 0044
- ◆ Women's Health Care House (08) 9227 8122



CONTENTS

Foreword	iii
List of Abbreviations	iv
◆ Medicines in Pregnancy – An Australian categorisation of risk of drug use in pregnancy	vi
Contacts for Specialist Advice on STIs and HIV	viii
List of Contributors and Review Process	xvii
Introduction	1
◆ Scope	1
◆ Three provider groups targeted	1
◆ Organisation of the manual	2
◆ Best practice	2
 <i>Part 1 Principles of STI/HIV Management</i>	
1.1 General Principles	3
◆ Effective Clinical Management of Patients who may have an STI or HIV	3
• Elements of effective clinical management	
• Essentials of patient care specific to STI/HIV	
◆ The Clinic Environment	4
◆ Respect for Patients' Special Needs	4
◆ Opportunistic Screening	5
◆ History	6
◆ Suggested Range of Tests	6
• Steps towards confidential HIV/STI testing with informed consent	
◆ Principles for Community Screening	7
◆ Prevention and Education for STI/HIV	8
◆ Child Sexual Abuse and STIs	10
• Management of a child with an STI	
◆ STI/HIV Notifications	12
◆ STI/HIV Counselling	16
◆ Follow-up Screening	17



Contents

1.2 History and Examination	19
◆ Relevant History	19
◆ Sexual History	19
◆ Drug History	21
◆ Consent to Physical Examination	22
◆ The Physical Examination	22
◆ STI Clinical Management and Sexual Contact Interview and Tracing Forms	23
1.3 Patient Presentation and Specimen Collection	27
◆ Essential Tests	27
◆ Essential Communication	27
◆ Nucleic Acid Tests	29
◆ Sample Test Pack for Diagnostic Testing	30
◆ Sample Protocol for Chlamydia and Gonorrhoea Diagnosis	32
◆ Specimen Collecting: Men	34
◆ Specimen Collecting: Women	35
◆ Specimen Collection and Handling Checklist	36
◆ Vaginal pH Testing	38
1.4 Screening of Asymptomatic Men and Women	41
◆ Asymptomatic Males	41
◆ Asymptomatic Females	41
◆ All Cases	42
1.5 Sexually Transmitted Infection Syndromes	43
◆ Vaginal Discharge	43
• Vaginitis	
• Cervicitis	
• Investigations and specimen collection	
• Immediate treatment	
◆ Urethral Discharge/Dysuria in Men (urethritis)	47
• Investigations and specimen collection	
• Immediate treatment	



◆ Genital Ulceration	49
• Investigations and specimen collection	
• Immediate treatment	
◆ Lower Abdominal Pain Syndrome	52
• Clinical examination, investigations and specimen collection	
• Immediate treatment	
◆ Acute Proctitis	55
• Organism	
• Clinical presentation	
• Investigations	
• Treatment	
1.6 Contact Tracing (Managing Sex Partners)	57
◆ Contact Tracing: Definitions	57
◆ Principles of Contact Tracing	57
◆ Information for Contact Tracing	58
• Consent for contact tracing	
• Eliciting a risk history to identify contacts	
◆ Choosing a Method of Advising Contacts	60
• Approaches to contact tracing by health care providers	
◆ Empirical Treatment	62
◆ Follow-up	64
◆ Urgency of Contact Tracing	64
◆ Uncooperative Patients	65
• Problems and possible solutions for uncooperative patients	
◆ Sample STI and HIV Contact Tracing Forms	66
1.7 Screening for High-risk Populations	69
◆ STI Testing Recommendations for Current Sex Workers	69
• New patients	
• Follow-up patients	
◆ STI Testing Recommendations for all Asymptomatic Young People (Under 25 years)	70
◆ STI Testing Recommendations for all Asymptomatic Sexually Active People who have Injected Drugs in the Previous 12 Months	71
◆ STI Testing Recommendations for Men who have Sex with Men	72



Contents

Part 2 Notifiable Infections Section

2.1 Chlamydia	75
◆ Organism	75
◆ Clinical Presentation	75
◆ Investigations	76
• Specimen collection and handling	
◆ Treatment	77
• Treating uncomplicated chlamydia	
• Treating chlamydia in cases of gonorrhoea	
• Treating chlamydia in cases of PID	
• Treating chlamydia in cases of epididymitis	
• Treating chlamydia in cases of LGV	
◆ Education, Counselling and Prevention	79
◆ Management of Partners	80
◆ Follow-up	80
◆ Public Health Issues	81
2.2 Gonorrhoea	82
◆ Organism	82
◆ Clinical Presentation	82
◆ Investigations	82
• Specimen collection and handling	
◆ Treatment	84
• Treating uncomplicated gonorrhoea contracted in the Perth metropolitan area or interstate/overseas	
• Treating uncomplicated gonorrhoea contracted outside the metropolitan area but within WA	
• Chlamydia co-infection	
• Treating gonorrhoea in other clinical situations	
• Treating gonorrhoea complicated by associated infections	
◆ Education, Counselling and Prevention	90
◆ Management of Partners	91
◆ Follow-up	92
◆ Public Health Issues	92



2.3 Donovanosis (Granuloma inguinale)	93
◆ Organism	93
◆ Clinical Presentation	93
◆ Investigations	93
• Specimen collection and handling	
◆ Treatment	95
• Standard	
• Pregnancy	
◆ Education, Counselling and Prevention	97
◆ Management of Partners	98
◆ Follow-up	98
◆ Public Health Issues	99
2.4 Human Immunodeficiency Infection (HIV) and Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS)	100
◆ Organism	100
◆ Clinical Presentation	100
• Primary HIV infection syndrome	
◆ Investigations	102
• Laboratory investigations	
• Assessing HIV risk factors	
• Is HIV testing appropriate?	
• Investigating other STIs	
◆ Treatment	106
◆ Education, Counselling and Prevention	107
• Post-test counselling	
◆ Management of Partners	109
◆ Follow-up	111
◆ Public Health Issues	112
• Non-occupational post-exposure prophylaxis	



Contents

2.5 Syphilis	113
◆ Organism	113
◆ Clinical Presentation	113
• Staging of syphilis	
• Presentation of latent syphilis	
• Presentation of tertiary syphilis	
• Exclude other STIs	
◆ Investigations	116
• Choice of tests	
• Interpreting tests for syphilis	
• Causes of false positive results in non-treponemal tests	
• Causes of false positive results in treponemal tests	
• Causes of false negative syphilis serology	
◆ Treatment	121
• Treatment regimens	
◆ Education, Counselling and Prevention	123
◆ Management of Partners	124
◆ Follow-up	125
• Tests for follow-up and management of syphilis	
◆ Syphilis in HIV Infection	127
◆ Syphilis during Pregnancy	128
• Treating syphilis during pregnancy	
• Follow-up after syphilis in pregnancy	
◆ Congenital Syphilis	130
• Treating congenital syphilis	
• Follow-up of congenital syphilis	
◆ Public Health Issues	132
2.6 Chancroid	133
◆ Organism	133
◆ Clinical Presentation	133
◆ Investigations	133
◆ Treatment	134
◆ Management of Partners	134
◆ Follow-up	134
◆ Public Health Issues	134



2.7 Viral Hepatitis	135
◆ Hepatitis A	135
• Post-exposure prophylaxis	
• Public health issues	
◆ Hepatitis B	136
• Post-exposure prophylaxis	
• Public health issues	
◆ Hepatitis C	138
• Public health issues	

Part 3 Non-notifiable Infections Section

3.1 Bacterial Vaginosis	139
3.2 Candidiasis	142
3.3 Cervicitis	145
3.4 Cytological Abnormalities	148
3.5 Epididymo-orchitis	149
3.6 Genital Herpes	151
3.7 Genital Warts/HPV	156
3.8 Lymphogranuloma Venereum (LGV)	159
3.9 Molluscum Contagiosum	161
3.10 Non-specific Urethritis (NSU)	163
3.11 Pelvic Inflammatory Disease (PID)	166
3.12 Prostatitis	171
3.13 Pubic Lice	172
3.14 Scabies	175
3.15 Trichomoniasis	178



Contents

<i>Bibliography</i>	181
<i>Appendices</i>	183
A Protocol – Reporting of Sexually Transmissible Infections in children under 14 years of age, and in children aged 14 years or above, and less than 16 years	183
B Sample Letters	
◆ Sample letter re: Contact tracing	195
◆ Sample letter re: Empirical treatment	196
C Tables	
◆ Table 1: Risk of transmission following a single unprotected exposure to an HIV-infected person	197
◆ Table 2: Health advice and follow-up	198
D Resources for Patients	
◆ Resources for patients	201
◆ For more information	202
◆ Regional Population Health Units	203
◆ For assistance with languages	203
E Australian National Notifiable Diseases Case Definitions	204
F Self-obtained Low Vaginal Swab: Patient Instructions	220
<i>Glossary</i>	221
<i>Index</i>	228



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