



MEDICAL DIRECTIVE

Azithromycin for Gonorrhea Drug Prophylaxis when a Client is Allergic to Penicillin or Cephalosporin

Approved by/Date: Medical Advisory Committee – June 26, 2012

Authorizing physician(s)

Physician of the Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault Care Centre (DV/SACC)
Emergency Department Physicians (LH Oshawa Only)

Authorized to who

Registered Nurses working at the DV/SACC who have been certified as a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) or nurses that hold the knowledge, skill and judgment that work within the DV/SACC Program.

Patient Description / Population

Any sexual assault client over 12 years of age when vaginal or anal penetration with a penis has occurred and/or is uncertain or does not remember the sexual assault, regardless of condom use or ejaculation.

Medical Directive Description/Physician's Order

Azithromycin 2 Grams once orally

Specific conditions/circumstances that must be met before the Directive can be implemented

- Client must be registered to DV/SACC
- DV/SACC standard sexual assault and health history must be completed by the RN in consultation with the client
- Obtain consent for prophylactic treatment and explain to the client that Azithromycin is prophylactic in the absence of lab results
- Explain options regarding sexually transmitted infections (STI) treatment and testing (take medication now and be retested in 3 weeks or not take medication now and be tested in one week)
- Assess for any client allergies to medication, specifically Azithromycin or Erythromycin. Do not give Azithromycin if client has an allergy to these drugs
- Advise client of possible side effects, especially gastrointestinal disturbances. Advise client Azithromycin can be taken with food
- Inform client they should be retested for STIs in 3 weeks following completion of Azithromycin administration
- Obtain urine BHCG and check results

Originating Committee: Emergency Program Council, March 26, 2012
Medical Advisory Committee: June 26, 2012

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Contraindications to the implementation of the Directive

- Client has known allergies to Azithromycin or Erythromycin
- Azithromycin should not be given during pregnancy or when breast feeding. Notify the DV/SACC Physician (or Emergency Physician if not available) for alternative treatment

Identify relevant Delegated Control Act or Added Skill associated with this Directive

None

Documentation requirements

- Document medication administration as per Lakeridge Health Policy
- Document on client treatment and follow-up form, client should be retested in 3 weeks following completion of Azithromycin administration

Review/Evaluation Process (how often/by who)

Review to be done on a biannual basis. Review to be conducted by the DV/SACC Medical Director and the DV/SACC RN.

Related Documents

Cefixime for Gonorrhoea Drug Prophylaxis

References

- Ontario Network of Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Treatment Centres-Medical Directives (2011)
- College of Nurses of Ontario (2012)
- Canadian Guidelines on Sexually Transmitted Infections, Public Health Agency of Canada (2006)