



MEDICAL DIRECTIVE

Erythromycin for Chlamydia Drug Prophylaxis when a Client is Pregnant or Breastfeeding

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). 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 and is pregnant or lactating 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

Erythromycin 500 mg orally qid for 7 days

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 be completed by the RN in consultation with the client
- Obtain consent for prophylactic treatment and explain to client that erythromycin is prophylactic in the absence of laboratory results
- Explain options regarding sexually transmitted infections (STIs) treatment and testing (take medication now and be retested in 3 weeks or not take medication now and be tested in one week)
- Advise client of possible side effects, especially gastrointestinal disturbances
- Advise client to take erythromycin with food to decrease gastrointestinal side effects
- Inform client they should be retested for STIs in 3 weeks time following completion of erythromycin administration

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

- Known allergy to macrolides (azithromycin, erythromycin, clarithromycin etc.)
- Erythromycin is not to be taken with antihistamines since erythromycin may impair metabolism of the antihistamine, potentially resulting in serious cardio-toxicity
- Clients taking carbamazepine (Tegretol), cyclosporin (Sandimmun), theophylline, triazolam (Halcion) or warfarin (Coumadin) must be closely monitored by a Physician if taking erythromycin
- Notify DV/SACC physician (or Emergency Physician if not available) for alternative treatment if any of the above are noted

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

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

Azithromycin for Chlamydia Drug Prophylaxis

References

- Ontario Network of Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Treatment Centres-Medical Guidelines for HIV Post Exposure Prophylaxis for Sexual Assault Survivors (2011)
- 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)