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Region IV Public Health
Clark, Cowlitz, Skamania, Wahkiakum counties
and Cowlitz Tribe

Health Advisory

Please deliver a copy of the accompanying alert to each provider in your organization.

Thank you

Questions regarding this alert may be
directed to the office of:

Alan Melnick, MD, MPH
Health Officer

Clark County Public Health
Cowlitz County Health Department
Skamania County Health Department
Wahkiakum County Department of Health and Human Services
(360) 397-8412

Please Distribute

Categories of Health Alert messages:

Health Alert: conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.

Health Advisory: provides important information for specific incident for situation; may not require immediate action.

Health Update: provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; no immediate action necessary.



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HEALTH ADVISORY

June 17, 2013

TO: Physicians and other Healthcare Providers

FROM: Alan Melnick, MD, MPH, CPH, Health Officer

RE: National Doxycycline Shortage

The purpose of this advisory is to alert you about a national shortage of doxycycline and provide Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) treatment guidance based on the shortage.

Background:

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) first reported a shortage of some forms of doxycycline (doxycycline hyclate) and unavailability of tetracycline on January 18, 2013 due to increased demand and manufacturing issues. The FDA continues to report shortage from some, but not all, manufacturers of some dosages and forms of doxycycline hyclate and doxycycline monohydrate. The FDA does not currently report a shortage of intravenous doxycycline hyclate or the oral suspension doxycycline calcium commonly used in pediatric patients.

Although Doxycycline is currently available from most manufacturers, some physicians and other healthcare providers may need to explore new contracts for procurement. Return to availability for one manufacturer reporting a shortage is uncertain, but is currently projected by September 2013. Clinicians should ensure they have access to doxycycline for the listed indications, and they should plan in advance to ensure treatment is not delayed. Health-care professionals experiencing difficulty obtaining doxycycline should contact the Washington State DOH Board of Pharmacy at 360-236-4946 for alternative procurement options.

CDC Recommendations for physicians and other healthcare providers for use of Doxycycline:

1. Suspected rickettsial infections: Clinicians should use Doxycycline to treat suspected rickettsial infections; no alternatives can be recommended that have the same proven degree of efficacy in limiting fatal outcome. For more information on treating rickettsial infections, refer to *Diagnosis and Management of Tickborne Rickettsial Diseases: Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever, Ehrlichiosis and Anaplasmosis – United States* (<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5504a1.htm>).
2. Lyme disease prophylaxis and treatment: Doxycycline is the recommended drug for prophylaxis of Lyme disease; alternatives have not been tested for efficacy. Providers should be judicious in its use following a tick bite. Single-dose amoxicillin is not recommended for Lyme disease prophylaxis because of its short half-life. Doxycycline is one of several antibiotics used for treating Lyme disease. However, amoxicillin and cefuroxime axetil are alternative antibiotics commonly used for oral treatment of Lyme disease. For detailed recommendations on prophylaxis and treatment of Lyme disease, see the 2006 guidelines for treatment developed by the Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA) (<http://cid.oxfordjournals.org/content/43/9/1089.full>).

3. Malaria: Doxycycline remains one of several possible drugs for both the prevention and treatment of malaria. For information about choosing the best drug to prevent malaria for a particular traveler to a malaria endemic country or for treating a patient with malaria, clinicians should visit the CDC malaria website at (<http://www.cdc.gov/malaria>).
4. Sexually Transmitted Diseases: Doxycycline is a recommended therapy for some sexually transmitted infections and syndromes including chlamydia, nongonococcal urethritis, epididymitis, and pelvic inflammatory disease. It is also an alternative therapy for syphilis in patients with a penicillin allergy. Alternative regimens using other antibiotics to treat these infections are described in the *2010 STD Treatment Guidelines* (<http://www.cdc.gov/std/treatment/2010/default.htm>).

For More Information

CDC Advisory on Shortage: <http://emergency.cdc.gov/HAN/2013.asp>

FDA Shortage Website: <http://www.fda.gov/Drugs/DrugSafety/DrugShortages/default.htm>

To report notifiable conditions or if you have questions, please call:

- Clark County Public Health: (360) 397-8182
- Cowlitz County Health and Human Services: (360) 414-5599
- Skamania County Community Health: (509) 427-3850
- Wahkiakum County Health and Human Services (360) 795-6207

Thank you for your partnership.