



FORWARD

The 'Nurse/Aboriginal Health Practitioner Initiated STI Treatment Code' establishes the competencies which must be achieved and criteria to be met by a Registered Nurse and/or Registered Aboriginal Health Practitioner to administer single dose combination therapy for chlamydia and/or gonorrhoea in accordance with the *Poisons Regulation Act 1965*.

The Code, prepared jointly by the Pharmaceutical Service Branch and the Communicable Disease Control Directorate, Public Health Division of the Western Australian Department of Health, is published under the authority of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Department, and is to be read in conjunction with the relevant provisions of the *Poisons Regulations 1965*.

1. Citation

This Code may be cited as the *Nurse/Aboriginal Health Practitioner-Initiated STI Treatment Code*.

2. Definitions

“**STI**” is the abbreviation for ‘sexually transmitted infection’.

“**Registered Nurse**” means a person who is registered under the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (WA) Act 2010* and whose name is entered on Division 1 of the Register of Nurses kept under that Act.

“**Registered Aboriginal Health Practitioner**” means a person who is registered with the Australian Health Practitioner Registration Association, by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practice Board, under the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (WA) Act 2010*.

“**Silver Book**” means the most current version of the “Guidelines for Managing Sexually Transmitted Infections: A Guide for Primary Health Providers” as published by the Public Health Division at <http://ww2.health.wa.gov.au/Silver-book>

“**LAC Pack**” means a pack, labelled in compliance with the *Poisons Regulations Act 1965*, containing an oral dose of azithromycin (total dose 1g), and a vial of ceftriaxone (total dose 500mg) and 2ml lignocaine (1%) to be given by deep intramuscular injection.

“**ZAP Pack**” means a pack, labelled in compliance with the *Poisons Regulations Act 1965*, containing oral doses of azithromycin (total dose 1g), amoxicillin (total dose 3g) and probenecid (total dose 1g).

“**Single Dose Azithromycin**” means a single dose, labelled in compliance with the *Poisons Regulation Act 1965*, of oral azithromycin (total dose 1g).

3. Treatment Indication

LAC and ZAP Packs may be administered for the treatment of confirmed and presumptive chlamydia and/or gonorrhoea, and single dose azithromycin may be administered for the treatment of confirmed chlamydia, across the state and in accordance with the treatment indications and guidelines of the Silver Book.

Registered Nurses and/or Registered Aboriginal Health Practitioners may only initiate treatment of adult clients and mature minors aged 14 years or older.

Registered Nurses and/or Registered Aboriginal Health Practitioners must fulfil their mandatory reporting responsibility to the Department of Child Protection and Family Services where there is reasonable belief of child sexual abuse.

4. Administration

LAC and ZAP Packs and single dose azithromycin must be administered under direct observation of the Registered Nurse and/or Registered Aboriginal Health Practitioner.

A Registered Nurse and/or Registered Aboriginal Health Practitioner may not supply a LAC or ZAP Pack or a single dose of azithromycin for unsupervised client self-administration at a later time.

5. Medication Storage

LAC and ZAP packs and single dose azithromycin must be stored securely to prevent access by unauthorised persons in accordance with *Poisons Regulations*.

6. Client Consent

Informed client consent for treatment must be obtained and recorded in accordance with the policy of the Health Service provider agency.

7. Contraindications

LAC packs must not be administered to a client with a history of allergy or contraindication to the use of azithromycin, ceftriaxone or lignocaine.

ZAP packs must not be administered to a client with a history of allergy or contraindication to the use of amoxicillin, azithromycin or probenecid.

Single dose azithromycin must not be administered to a client with a history of allergy or contraindication to the use of azithromycin.

8. Counselling

Clients must be advised of potential and expected medication adverse events. Clients should also be offered information about chlamydia, gonorrhoea, and safe sex. Fact sheets for patient use are available at: <http://ww2.health.wa.gov.au/Patient-fact-sheets>

9. Adverse Events

If an adverse event occurs following the administration of a LAC pack, ZAP pack or single dose of azithromycin, the Registered Nurse and/or Registered Aboriginal Health Practitioner must consult a medical practitioner for advice and assistance with client management.

10. STI management

Silver Book Guidelines in relation to investigations, treatment, management of partners and follow up of STI must be complied with in full.

11. Notification of STI

The Registered Nurse and/or Registered Aboriginal Health Practitioner must ensure follow up of investigation results and notification of laboratory confirmed diagnosis of chlamydia or gonorrhoea to The Director, Communicable Disease Control Directorate, Department of Health.

Notification may be by post, telephone or facsimile, preferably within 24 hours of STI confirmation.

Notification must comply with the Procedure for Notification of Communicable Diseases (Excluding HIV/AIDS) and be on approved notification forms available at:

<http://ww2.health.wa.gov.au/Silver-book/STI-or-HIV-notification>

12. Records

The Registered Nurse and/or Registered Aboriginal Health Practitioner must record, in the patient's medical notes, in accordance with the Health Service provider agency policy, each occasion on which a LAC pack, ZAP Pack or single dose of azithromycin is administered. The record is to include:

- a. Name and dose of medicine administered;
- b. Name, address, date of birth and gender of the client;
- c. Date of administration; and
- d. Name and signature of the Registered Nurse and/or Registered Aboriginal Health Practitioner.

13. Education

Registered Nurses and Registered Aboriginal Health Practitioners administering LAC and ZAP Packs and single dose azithromycin must first successfully complete an education program approved by the CEO of Health or equivalent course provided by a Registered Training Organisation (RTO) or university addressing the following competencies:

- a. Sexual health history taking;
- b. Sexual health and STI clinical assessment;
- c. Pathology testing including request and collecting samples;
- d. Contraindications and adverse effects of azithromycin, amoxicillin, ceftriaxone, lignocaine and probenecid;
- e. STI health promotion and education;
- f. STI contact tracing;
- g. Communicable disease notification and referral; and
- h. Reporting of suspected child sexual abuse.

Every two (2) years after the initial training program, Registered Nurses and Registered Aboriginal Health Practitioners will be required to provide evidence to their employer of ongoing competency through successful completion of an on-line exam delivered by a Department of Health approved training organization.

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