



# Maricopa County

Department of Public Health

Public Health Clinical Services  
STD Field Services  
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Dear Medical Providers:

The 2002 STD Treatment Guidelines from CDC states that, "Quinolones should not be used for infections acquired in Asia or the Pacific including Hawaii. In addition, Quinolones are inadvisable for treating infections acquired in California and in other areas with increased prevalence of Quinolone resistance". Recent findings from the Gonococcal Isolate Surveillance Project (GISP) in Phoenix have indicated that Maricopa County is now an area with increased prevalence of Quinolone-resistant *Neisseria Gonorrhoeae* (QRNG). Based on these findings, the Maricopa County Department of Public Health is adopting the following recommendations:

1. Health care providers in Maricopa County should no longer use Fluoroquinolones (Ciprofloxacin, Levofloxacin, and Ofloxacin) as first line therapy for Gonorrhea.
2. Providers are urged to contact the Maricopa County STD Program at (602) 506-1678 whenever a Gonorrhea treatment failure is suspected, or if there is other evidence of possible antibiotic-resistant infection.

The antibiotic of choice to treat uncomplicated Gonococcal infections of the cervix, urethra, and rectum include:

- Ceftriaxone (Rocephin) 125 mg intramuscularly in a single dose;
  - Cefpodoxime (Vantin) 400 mg orally in a single dose.
- Either regimen should be followed with either Azithromycin 1 gm orally (single dose) or Doxycycline 100 mg orally twice daily for 7 days, to treat possible coexisting **Chlamydia** infection.

When well-documented penicillin allergy or other contraindications preclude treatment with a cephalosporin, patients can be treated with a single-dose of Azithromycin 2 gm orally once or Ciprofloxacin 500 mg (or another Fluoroquinolone can be given), followed by a test-of-cure at eight weeks.

Allow me to take this opportunity to let you know that at this time Maricopa County is in the midst of a syphilis epidemic and concurrently experiencing a steady rise of congenital syphilis among newborns. To respond to this situation, the Department of Public Health is recommending that all pregnant women receive a third trimester blood test for syphilis.

As the new Deputy Director for Public Health Clinical Services I look forward to working with you to address the Public Health concerns that face our community.

*Robert Jones, M.D.*

Robert Jones, M.D.  
Deputy Director  
Public Health Clinical Services