



## Shortage of Spectinomycin

Please be advised that the supplier of Spectinomycin, Pfizer Canada, has informed the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) and other provinces and territories that production has been discontinued globally. The MOHLTC is preparing for a shortage and possible complete discontinuation in the availability of this product as their current stockpile expired the end of February 2017.

Currently, Spectinomycin 2 g IM plus Azithromycin 1 g PO is recommended as an alternative regimen for treatment of uncomplicated cervical, urethral, or rectal infections caused by susceptible *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* in patients with a history of severe reaction to penicillin (e.g., anaphylaxis, Stevens Johnson syndrome, and toxic epidermal necrolysis) or any allergic reaction to cephalosporins.

The MOHLTC is currently working with the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) and Health Canada to find an alternate supplier for Spectinomycin; however, to date none have been identified. If another supplier isn't identified, the MOHLTC will collaborate with PHAC to develop recommendations for treatment of uncomplicated urogenital gonorrhea infections in patients with severe reaction to penicillin or cephalosporins.

In the meantime, please consult with the on-call infectious disease consultant at Lakeridge Health, Infection Prevention and Control Department at 905-576-8711, ext. 3171 for treatment of uncomplicated cervical, urethral, or rectal infections caused by susceptible *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* in patients with a history of severe reaction to penicillin (e.g., anaphylaxis, Stevens Johnson syndrome, and toxic epidermal necrolysis) or any allergic reaction to cephalosporins.

## Eligibility for Tubersol for Tuberculin Skin Testing (TST):

In response to ongoing confusion associated with the eligibility criteria used to release publicly-funded supply from public health units, the Population and Public Health Division (PPHD) worked with colleagues in the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care's OHIP branch and the Ontario Medical Association (OMA) to align the information being shared with external partners. As part of this process, PPHD has developed a document, which is being released concurrently with updates to both the OMA guide to third-party services (available to physicians) and an OHIP INFOBulletin outlining when and how physicians are allowed to bill for TSTs, and when they can use the publicly-funded supply. The OHIP INFOBulletin can be found at [www.health.gov.on.ca](http://www.health.gov.on.ca) search **Bulletin Number: 4692**.

As part of the ongoing revision, the Ministry has created interim guidelines to determine a client's current eligibility for the publicly-funded supply of the medication. These criteria will be assessed and replaced with final guidelines at the culmination of this review and will be done in conjunction with both internal Ministry partners and external stakeholders. The interim guidelines state that clients meeting the following criteria are eligible for publicly-funded Tubersol within Ontario:

1. Contacts of cases of active Tuberculosis
2. Tests deemed to be "medically necessary" by the client's physician or nurse practitioner, based on level of risk as identified in the Canadian Tuberculosis Standards, 7th edition (available online at [www.respiratoryguidelines.ca](http://www.respiratoryguidelines.ca) search **Canadian Tuberculosis Standards, 7th edition**)
3. Clients under the age of 65 who are entering long-term care facilities. Note: Screening via TST is not recommended for clients over the age of 65.
4. When required by an educational institution for admission or continuation in a day care or pre-school program, or a program of study in a school, community college, university or other educational institution.

If you have questions, please call an Infectious Disease Nurse at 705-743-1000, ext. 131.

View the **FYI Newsletter** online at [www.peterboroughpublichealth.ca](http://www.peterboroughpublichealth.ca) under For Professionals | Health Professionals | FYI Newsletter

**In this issue...**

- Hepatitis B Vaccine Recommendations
- Antibiotic Overuse
- Reminder: Rabies Fax Line at PPH

## Hepatitis B Vaccine Recommendations

The National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) Statement “[Update on the recommended use of Hepatitis B vaccine](#)” is now available online. The “Hepatitis B Vaccine” chapter of the Canadian Immunization Guide (CIG) has been updated based on the NACI Statement.

Provinces and territories immunize against HB with a variety of schedules that are all successful. This update recommends:

- Immunocompetent children immunized in infancy do NOT need a booster dose in adolescence;
- Adults with diabetes are NOT a high risk group for HB immunization; and
- Optimal timing and frequency of serological testing in immunocompromised patients should be based on the severity of the condition and the risk of HB exposure.



For details or the statement, go to: [www.canada.ca](http://www.canada.ca) and search [Update on the recommended use of Hepatitis B vaccine](#)

For more information, call a Vaccine Preventable Disease Nurse at 705-743-1000, ext. 131.

## Calorie Counts

### Now Found on Menus

Local residents will now be able to make more informed food decisions at certain food premises thanks to Ontario's new “Healthy Menu Choices Act” that took effect January 1, 2017.



Providing this information directly on the menu will help people better understand how to balance out their caloric intake throughout the day. The Ontario government has also launched a media campaign this spring about the new menu labels with the hope this information helps parents start a conversation about healthy eating with their kids.

Residents will now see the number of calories for each food and beverage item included on the menus, labels or tags at several local food service providers, such as restaurants, coffee shops, convenience stores, grocery stores, and movie theatres. The new legislation only affects food service providers with 20 or more locations in the province. This means calorie tallies will now be seen on menus at approximately 80 local food premises according to Peterborough Public Health.

Food service providers are also required to post an educational statement for customers about average daily caloric needs. For an updated list of local food premises affected by the legislation, visit [www.peterboroughpublichealth.ca](http://www.peterboroughpublichealth.ca) | [My Life & Health](#) | [Healthy Eating](#) under [Resources](#) | [Menu Labelling - Food Premise](#).

## REMINDER: Rabies Fax Line at Peterborough Public Health

We wanted to remind you that for reporting Rabies and Animal Exposure Incidents to use the following fax number: **705-743-1203**.

Please fax and call us when reporting a potential rabies exposure!

All rabies incident reports be sent through this fax number **and called** in to 705-743-1000 , ext. 228 during business hours, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday to Fridays.

After hours, on weekday evenings or on weekends, please fax to the same fax number and call 705-760-8127 to speak to an after-hours Inspector or Manager.

For general rabies consultations, please contact: Inspection Services 705-743-1000, ext. 228





Public Health Ontario  
PROTECTOR OF OUR HEALTH

Santé publique Ontario  
PROTECTOR OF OUR HEALTH

# Antibiotic overuse

## in Ontario's long-term care homes

### What is the problem?

**50%**  
of antibiotic courses  
are unnecessary<sup>1</sup>

**78%**   
of residents receive at least one  
antibiotic course each year<sup>2</sup>

### How are antibiotics overused?

There is variability in prescribing:



**10x**

Homes with the highest use are using 10x more  
antibiotics than homes with the lowest use

Prescriber preference is the key reason for  
differences - not resident characteristics<sup>3</sup>



Duration of therapy  
is often longer than  
necessary<sup>2</sup>




### Why is this important?

Residents in homes with higher antibiotic use  
experience more harm:

**24%** increased risk of *Clostridium difficile* infection, diarrhea, allergic reactions  
and antibiotic-resistant organisms<sup>3</sup>

### What can you do?

Practice antibiotic stewardship:

-  reduce unnecessary antibiotic prescriptions
-  re-assess the need for antibiotics regularly
-  use the shortest effective duration possible

For more information regarding antimicrobial stewardship: [www.publichealthontario.ca/asp](http://www.publichealthontario.ca/asp)

1. Loeb M, Simor AE, Landry L, Walter S, McArthur M, Duffy J, et al. Antibiotic use in Ontario facilities that provide chronic care. *J Gen Intern Med.* 2001;16:376-83.

2. Daneman N, Grunir A, Bronskill SE, Newman A, Fischer HD, Rochon PA, et al. Prolonged antibiotic treatment in long-term care: role of the prescriber. *JAMA Intern Med.* 2013;173(8):673-82.

3. Daneman N, Bronskill SE, Grunir A, Newman AM, Fischer HD, Rochon PA, et al. Variability in antibiotic use across nursing homes and the risk of antibiotic-related adverse outcomes for individual residents. *JAMA Intern Med.* 2015;175(8):1331-9.

## Events For HCPs

### Immunization for School Age Children

**Wednesday, April 26, 2017**

**8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.**

**Peterborough Public Health**

Jackson Square, 185 King Street

Second Floor - Anstruther, Buckhorn & Chemong Lake Rooms

Clinical staff are invited to join us for a review of current requirements for the Immunization School Pupil Act:

- Why did the student get a notice?
- Intervals required between vaccines?
- Which vaccine to give?

Light breakfast provided.

To register, please call  
705-743-1000, ext. 135

## Resources For HCPs

### Zika virus

The latest fact sheets on Zika virus from the Public Health Agency of Canada are available on [www.peterboroughpublichealth.ca](http://www.peterboroughpublichealth.ca) | [For Professionals](#) | [Health Professionals](#) | [Vector Borne Diseases](#) | [Zika Virus](#)

- [For health professionals: Zika virus](#)
- [Fact sheet for health professionals: Zika virus](#)
- [Zika virus: Counselling travelers](#)

### New Publicly Funded Immunization Schedule Available Online

Ontario's new publicly funded schedule for immunization – updated December 2016 – is now available online. There are no print copies available, however you may download and print the new schedule from [www.health.gov.on.ca](http://www.health.gov.on.ca) search [Publicly Funded Immunization Schedule](#)

The new schedule includes updates to the HPV vaccine section to include boys and herpes zoster (shingles) vaccine for those 65 to 70 years of age.

For more information, contact Vaccine Preventable Disease program nurses at 705-743-1000, ext. 131.

## Resources For Patients



**Eat Right Ontario** is a free service where community members can speak with a Registered Dietitian by calling **1-877-510-5102**.

This service is available 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Monday to Friday and until 9:00 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Community members can also visit [www.eatrightontario.ca](http://www.eatrightontario.ca) to email a Registered Dietitian or to find nutrition resources.

## Health Events For Patients

### Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD): Dispelling the Myths

**Wednesday, April 26, 2017**

**7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.**

**Peterborough Public Health**

185 King Street, Peterborough

Autism is an increasingly recognized label in society today, and yet myths still remain around this complex diagnosis. These myths can lead to misconceptions and stigma, which can create barriers to inclusion. In this session for parents and caregivers we will differentiate between the common myths and facts about ASD.

**Guest Speaker:** Shelly Lamain has worked as an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Consultant with Kinark Child and Family Services for 13 years. She has provided numerous trainings on topics related to ASD and/or Applied Behaviour Analysis to a variety of audiences. In her current role, she provides consultative behaviour analytic support when students with ASD transition to school from more intensive services.

Light snack provided. No Charge. No Registration.  
Wheelchair Accessible.