



BRITISH COLUMBIA  
CENTRE for EXCELLENCE  
in HIV/AIDS

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December 1, 2023

**Re: Doxycycline for the prevention of bacterial sexually transmitted infections available to eligible participants of the BC-CfE HIV Treatment Program and the HIV PrEP Program**

**Dear Healthcare Provider:**

The British Columbia Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS (BC-CfE) is pleased to inform you that with the support of the BC Ministry of Health, beginning December 1, 2023, doxycycline for the prevention of bacterial sexually transmitted infections (B-STIs) including syphilis, chlamydia and gonorrhoea, will be available at no charge to eligible participants of the BC-CfE Drug Treatment Programs for HIV Treatment and HIV Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (HIV PrEP).

Studies conducted in BC and elsewhere among high-risk gbMSM (gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men) currently using antiretroviral therapy (ART) or HIV PrEP for the treatment or prevention of HIV infection have confirmed the feasibility, safety, and efficacy of single dose doxycycline 200 mg taken orally within 72 hours after a high-risk sexual encounter to decrease new diagnoses of B-STIs by about two thirds. To date, the evidence supports this intervention for high risk gbMSM and transgender women living with HIV on ART, and HIV PrEP recipients; however, the prophylactic role of doxycycline for B-STIs in cis-gender women, and other populations, remains unclear.

The BC-CfE Therapeutic Guidelines for Syphilis provide guidance regarding doxycycline for B-STI prevention, including a review of the evidence, prescribing, and monitoring recommendations. Please refer to "Section IV: Prevention" of the syphilis guidelines, available at [bccfe.ca/therapeutic-guidelines/opportunistic-infection-therapeutic-guidelines](http://bccfe.ca/therapeutic-guidelines/opportunistic-infection-therapeutic-guidelines).

**To obtain doxycycline for bacterial STI prevention through the BC-CfE initiative, all of the following eligibility criteria must be met:**

- The client must be a current participant of the *BC-CfE HIV Treatment Program* **or** the *HIV PrEP Program*, **and**
- The client identifies as gbMSM or transgender woman, **and**
- The client is at increased risk of B-STI as indicated either by having a history of B-STI such as syphilis, chlamydia, or gonorrhoea within the past year, or being clinically assessed as being at increased risk, **and**
- The client is a BC resident with MSP coverage, or Interim Federal Health



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Doxycycline for B-STI prevention medication is available through the systems in place for the HIV PrEP and HIV Treatment Programs. Detailed information about access, including *the Enrolment & Prescription* form are available at <https://www.bccfe.ca/drug-treatment-program>

**Prescription:** Doxycycline 200mg (2 x 100mg tablet or capsule) one single dose taken as soon as possible within 72 hours post-coital, up to a maximum of doxycycline 200mg once a day.

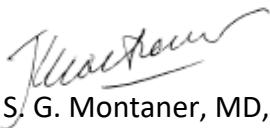
Doxycycline should not be used in persons allergic to tetracyclines, those taking contraindicated medications (e.g.: warfarin, carbamazepine, systemic retinoids), or during pregnancy.

Clients should be counselled about possible gastrointestinal symptoms, sun sensitivity, esophagitis, and rare events of intracranial hypertension.

**Monitoring:** STI screening should be performed at baseline and every 3 months for syphilis, for gonorrhea and chlamydia at all relevant anatomic sites (urogenital, pharyngeal, and rectal), and for HIV (if HIV uninfected at baseline). If an STI is diagnosed, treat according to standard STI treatment guidelines.

Together with the expansion of STI testing, and treatment as recommended as part of the BCCDC's BC Syphilis Action Plan Refresh, this new doxycycline for B-STI prevention initiative is anticipated to decrease the rate of new B-STI infections in BC in the gbMSM population, and contribute to the control of syphilis in BC.

Yours sincerely,



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