

## City and County of San Francisco

## Department of Public Health



**TO:** San Francisco Medical Providers

**RE:** New recommended treatment dose for gonorrhea cefpodoxime 400mg

**DATE:** April 14, 2006

Dear San Francisco Medical Provider:

Due to high levels of fluoroquinolone-resistant *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* in California, third generation cephalosporins are the recommended treatment for gonorrhea. Of this class of medications, ceftriaxone 125mg is highly effective for the treatment of gonorrhea but must be administered by injection.

Cefpodoxime (Vantin™) is a third generation cephalosporin that has been FDA-approved for the treatment of gonorrhea at a dose of 200mg by mouth. A study has further shown that a dose of as little as 50mg was effective in treating uncomplicated urogenital gonorrhea.

We have used cefpodoxime 200mg by mouth at City Clinic since 2003 without documented treatment failures. However, to assure consistency with the California State and CDC treatment guidelines, **we are changing our recommended dose to cefpodoxime 400mg by mouth.** This change will be incorporated into the 2006 SF City Clinic STD Treatment Protocols coming out this Spring.

As we have recently reported, rates of gonorrhea are rising in young African-Americans in San Francisco (*SFDPH Health Advisory 3/28/06*) and continue to be high in gay men and other men who have sex with men (MSM). Please annually screen all sexually active African-American patients under 25 years old for gonorrhea and chlamydia. MSM should be screened every 3-6 months for gonorrhea, chlamydia and syphilis. All persons who test positive for STDs should be re-tested at 3 months to rule out re-infection.

Thank you for helping keep San Francisco healthy.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Jeffrey D. Klausner in black ink.

Jeffrey D. Klausner, MD, MPH  
Deputy Health Officer and Director