

MSSVD / AGUM Clinical Effectiveness Group

UK National Outcome Standards for gonorrhoea and chlamydia

Draft for discussion

The levels set for the outcome measures for gonorrhoea and chlamydia are the same. The standards are evidence based, and the research background and explanatory notes are attached.

Standard for satisfactory treatment

Satisfactory treatment shall be established in at least 50% of cases of all those diagnosed with gonorrhoea or Chlamydia within 4 weeks of diagnosis.

Notes

There must be clear documentation of the following in the casenotes.

Gonorrhoea: Negative cultures should be obtained from all sites from which positive cultures were obtained in establishing the diagnosis

Chlamydia: There must be direct communication between clinic staff and patient (which could be by telephone) to establish:

- that the patient has complied with the medication
and
- that there is no possibility of reinfection (ie either total abstinence from sex, or if there has been penetrative sex, condoms were used prior to penetration for every episode of penetrative sex, and condoms did not break or slip off during any such episode).

If there are any doubts over compliance or possible re-infection, re-treatment must have been recommended to the patient.

Standard for satisfactory partner notification

For cases of gonorrhoea or Chlamydia, at least 0.5 sexual partners per case shall be verified as having been satisfactorily managed within four weeks of the initial partner notification interview.

Notes

Satisfactory management would include documentation via contact slips that a partner has attended, or the patient telling a member of clinic staff that the partner in question has attended a medical practice (usually GUM or general practice) and received treatment for gonorrhoea or chlamydia.

Sexual contacts who have already been diagnosed and treated before or at the same time as the index patient count towards the 0.5 target.

The number of partners includes all traceable and untraceable contacts.

CEG 31/10/01