

Appendix A: Disease-Specific Chapters

Chapter: Gonorrhoea

Gonorrhoea

- Communicable
- Virulent

Health Protection and Promotion Act, Section 1 (1)

Health Protection and Promotion Act: Ontario Regulation 558/91 – Specification of Communicable Diseases

Health Protection and Promotion Act: Ontario Regulation 559/91 – Specification of Reportable Diseases

1) Aetiologic Agent:	Causative agent is the <i>Neisseria gonorrhoeae</i> , a gram-negative diplococcus, commonly known as Gonococcus (1).
2) Case Definition:	
Surveillance Case Definition	See Appendix B
Outbreak Case Definition	Not applicable
3) Identification:	
Clinical Presentation	<p>Presentation and severity differs in males and females (1). Many cases are asymptomatic (2).</p> <p>In males the most common presenting symptom is a painful purulent urethral discharge; dysuria and frequency as well as redness, itching and swelling of urethra (1).</p> <p>Females present with initial urethritis or cervicitis, frequently mild which can go unnoticed; abnormal vaginal discharge and post-coital bleeding may occur and then the infection can progress to pelvic inflammatory disease (1).</p> <p>Pharyngeal and anorectal infections are common among those engaging in oral and anal sex (1).</p>
Diagnosis	See Appendix B
4) Epidemiology:	
Occurrence	<p>Worldwide; affects both genders especially sexually active adolescents and younger adults (1).</p> <p>In Ontario, gonorrhoea is a commonly reported STI. Rates of</p>

	gonorrhoea are higher among males compared to females, and have been rising. Reported rates are highest among males 20-24 years of age and among females 15-19 years of age.
Reservoir	Humans (1).
Modes of Transmission	Sexual contact via oral, vaginal, cervical, urethral or anal routes; in children, exposure to infected genitals (consider the possibility of sexual abuse in these cases); newborns: during delivery from infected mother (1, 2).
Incubation Period	Usually 2-7 days, sometimes longer when symptoms occur (1).
Period of Communicability	May extend for months if untreated; effective treatment usually ends communicability within hours (1).
Susceptibility and Resistance	Susceptibility is general; the transmission probability of <i>N. gonorrhoea</i> has been estimated to be as high as 50% per genital sexual contact, and is more efficient male to female than female to male (1, 2).

5) Reporting Requirements:

To local Board of Health	<p>Laboratory confirmed cases shall be reported to the medical officer of health by persons required to do so under the <i>Health Protection and Promotion Act</i>, R.S.O. 1990.</p> <p>Refer to the <i>Sexual Health and Sexually Transmitted Infections Prevention and Control Protocol, 2008</i> (or as current) for reporting requirements and data collection requirements.</p>
To Public Health Division (PHD)	<p>Report only case classifications specified in the case definition to PHD.</p> <p>Cases shall be reported using the integrated Public Health Information System (iPHIS), or any other method specified by the Ministry within five (5) business days of receipt of initial notification as per <i>iPHIS Bulletin</i> Number 17: Timely Entry of Cases (3).</p> <p>The minimum data elements to be reported for each case is specified in the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Ontario Regulation 569</i> (Reports) under the Health Protection and Promotion Act (HPPA); • The disease-specific User Guides published by the Ministry, and • Bulletins and directives issued by the Ministry.

6) Prevention and Control Measures:

Personal Prevention Measures	<p>Preventative measures include education about safer sex practices including use of condoms and early detection of infection by testing those at risk (2).</p> <p>REFER TO <i>Sexual Health and Sexually Transmitted Infections Prevention and Control Protocol, 2008</i> (or as current), and the Canadian Guidelines on Sexually Transmitted Infections, Public Health Agency of Canada, 2008 edition.</p>
Infection Prevention and Control Strategies	<p>REFER TO <i>Sexual Health and Sexually Transmitted Infections Prevention and Control Protocol, 2008</i> (or as current), and the Canadian Guidelines on Sexually Transmitted Infections, Public Health Agency of Canada, 2008 edition.</p>
Management of Cases	<p>Investigate the case to determine source of infection. Refer to Ontario Regulation 569 under the HPPA for relevant data to collect and ensure to include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• history of exposure• risk assessment• contact history <p>Provide education about and promote safer sex practices.</p> <p>Treatment as per attending health care provider.</p> <p>REFER TO <i>Sexual Health and Sexually Transmitted Infections Prevention and Control Protocol, 2008</i> (or as current), and the Canadian Guidelines on Sexually Transmitted Infections, Public Health Agency of Canada, 2008 edition.</p>
Management of Contacts	<p>All identified sexual contacts exposed should be assessed, tested and treated as per the ministry document <i>Sexual Health and Sexually Transmitted Infections Prevention and Control Protocol, 2008</i> (or as current), and the Canadian Guidelines on Sexually Transmitted Infections, Public Health Agency of Canada, 2008 edition.</p>
Management of Outbreaks	<p>Not applicable for gonorrhoea.</p>
7) References	<p>(1) Heymann D, editor. Control of communicable diseases manual. 18th ed. Washington: American Public Health Association; 2004.</p> <p>(2) Public Health Agency of Canada. Canadian guidelines on sexually transmitted infections. Ottawa: Public Health Agency of Canada; 2008. Available from http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/std-mts/sti_2006/pdf/Guidelines_Eng_complete_06-26-08.pdf.</p> <p>(3) Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care. Timely entry of cases. iPHIS Bulletin. 2007 May 11;17.</p>
8) Additional Resources	<p>Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care. Sexual health and sexually</p>

transmitted infections prevention and control protocol. Toronto: Queen's Printer for Ontario; 2008. Available from http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/pubhealth/oph_standards/ophs/progstds/protocols/sexual_health_sti.pdf. (or as current)

Health Protection and Promotion Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. H.7. Available from http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/statutes/english/elaws_statutes_90h07_e.htm.
