



RECTAL/PHARYNGEAL TESTING FOR GONORRHEA

The Ontario Gonorrhea Testing and Treatment Guide 2nd edition, (Nov. 2018) recommends site specific testing for gonorrhea (rectal and pharyngeal) in high risk individuals. Since a high proportion of individuals with gonorrhea are at risk of co-infection with chlamydia, concurrent rectal/pharyngeal testing for chlamydia should be conducted.

WHO TO TEST?

Rectal and pharyngeal swabs are recommended in the following individuals who practice unprotected oral/anal intercourse:

- **Men who have sex with men**
- **Sex workers and their contacts**
- **Known sexual contacts of those infected with gonorrhea**

Testing maybe considered in individuals not in the above risk groups based on clinical evaluation and at risk sexual behaviours.

HOW TO TEST?

Specimens from rectal and pharyngeal sites are collected using the **Hologic Aptima Specimen kit (NAAT)** and the sent to the Ontario Public Health Laboratory for diagnosis.

TREATMENT AND FOLLOW-UP?

- First line therapy: Ceftriaxone 250 mg IM plus azithromycin 1 g orally PO is recommended.
- Rescreen a positive oral/rectal site at 4 weeks following completion of treatment.
- Lab confirmed pharyngeal gonococcal infections require a test of cure (culture) 3-7 days after treatment due to increased risk of anti-microbial resistance at this site.

For further information: <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/-/media/documents/guide-gonorrhea-testing-treatment.pdf?la=en>

Health care provider resources now available to order online durham.ca/HCP.