



Dear Doctor,

A partner of your patient has been diagnosed with syphilis.

We recommend that you test your patient for syphilis by ordering RPR & EIA serology.

Note: Serology may be negative in a patient who has been exposed and infected with syphilis for up to 90 days after exposure.

We also recommend your patient be tested for other STI's such as gonorrhoea, chlamydia and HIV.

If your patient has been exposed to someone with syphilis less than 90 days ago we recommend that they are treated presumptively today, without waiting for their test result, so that treatment is completed even if the test is negative.

The current recommendation for epidemiological treatment of an individual exposed to syphilis is:

- Benzathine penicillin G 1.8 g IM single dose ^{1,2}
- If the patient is allergic to penicillin:
- Doxycycline 100 mg BD for 14 days may be considered.
- Doxycycline may not be as effective as the penicillin based regimens above, and should not be considered as first line treatment.

If you have any questions regarding positive syphilis results, the treatment of syphilis, or the availability and administration of benzathine penicillin, please contact s sexual health physician at **Melbourne Sexual Health Centre**.

For more information please visit www.mshc.org.au

If you live in NSW visit Sexually Transmissible Infections (STIs) and Blood Borne Viruses (BBVs) Factsheets - NSW Department of Health or ring the NSW Sexual Health Infoline on 1800 451 624.

If you live in Qld visit Qld Department of Health Sexual Health Website

² Sexually Transmitted Diseases Treatment Guidelines 2015; MMWR 2015, 64 available from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention web site - www.cdc.gov



^{1.} State of Victoria: Therapeutic Guidelines Antibiotic. Version eTG Complete 2014 available from the Therapeutic Guidelines Limited web site - www.tg.com.au