

# Point of Care Gonorrhea Desk Reference

April 2019



*Neisseria gonorrhoeae* (*N. gonorrhoeae*) produces a wide spectrum of clinical illness. Many infections are asymptomatic. Type of sexual behaviour and presence of symptoms should guide testing and treatment.

For more information about the clinical presentation of *N. gonorrhoeae*, please refer to [Canadian Guidelines on Sexually Transmitted Infections](#).

## ASSESS RISKS

## ASSESS SYMPTOMS

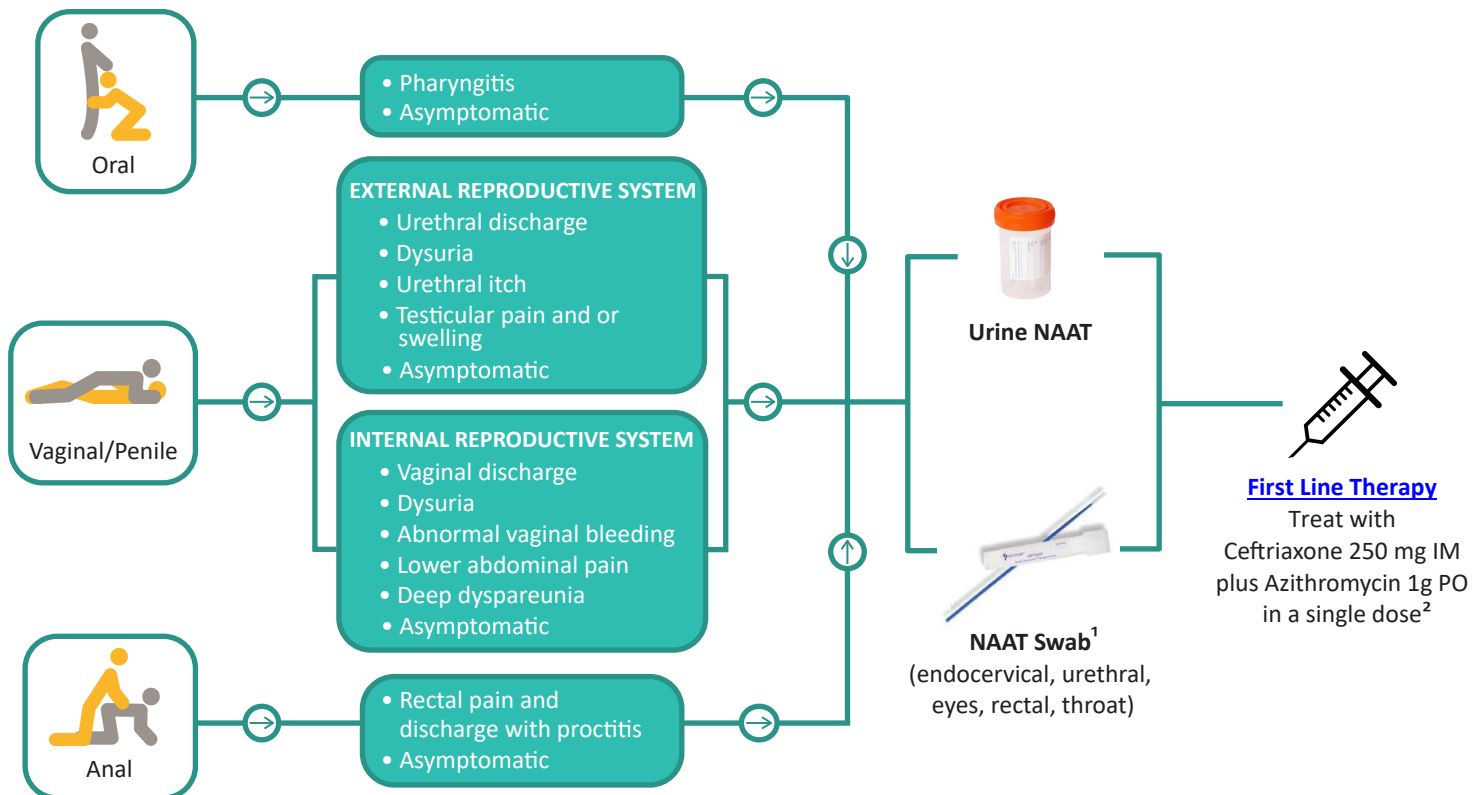
(if present)

## CHOOSE TEST

(based on risk or symptoms)

## TREATMENT

- Positive test result or
- Contact of a positive case or
- At risk and symptomatic



## NAAT<sup>6</sup>

- May be done at time of presentation without waiting 48 hours post-exposure.
- If a pelvic exam is conducted, endocervical<sup>1</sup> or vaginal<sup>3</sup> NAAT are first line.
- NAAT swabs are not cultures.
- May be the only available testing method in some NWT jurisdictions.

## CULTURE<sup>4 5</sup>

- Cultures obtained less than 48 hours after exposure may give false negative results.
- Important for monitoring antibiotic resistance.
- Culture for *N. gonorrhoeae*, in addition to a chlamydia/gonorrhea NAAT<sup>6</sup>, for any patient with obvious cervical, urethral or rectal discharge, as well as under the following situations:
  - [Test of Cure \(TOC\) under certain situations.](#)
  - In the case of sexual abuse/assault.
  - To evaluate pelvic inflammatory disease (PID).
  - If STI acquired in a country with high rates of antimicrobial resistance (AMR).
  - To determine antimicrobial sensitivities prior to treatment, when possible.



<sup>1</sup> Nucleic acid amplification testing (NAAT). Collect in the UNISEX blue-shaft, white label transport tube. Only one sample is required for chlamydia/gonorrhea. <sup>2</sup> In adults and youth ≥ 9 years of age if no contraindications. Alternate regimen required for disseminated infection, gonococcal ophthalmia or PID.

<sup>3</sup> Collect in vaginal pink-shaft, orange label transport tube if available.

<sup>4</sup> If transport is delayed, keep culture specimens in CTM at room temperature - do not refrigerate. Organisms may not survive if transit exceeds 12 hours.

<sup>5</sup> Cultures are collected in charcoal transport medium (CTM) only.

<sup>6</sup> Due to high rates of concomitant infection, specimens should be taken for both gonococcal and chlamydial infections.