



# WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

## URGENT HEALTH MATTER – PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL

### Chlamydia Treatment Information Sheet Important Information About *Your* Health

(This Treatment Information Sheet is intended for sex partners of persons with Chlamydia)

Your sex partner has been treated for Chlamydia, a curable sexually transmitted disease (STD) that you can get from having oral, vaginal or anal sex with a person who has a Chlamydia infection. You may have been exposed to Chlamydia. Chlamydia infection is easily treated with the medicine azithromycin (also known as Zithromax). People with Chlamydia infection may not know they have it because they have no signs or symptoms. Your sex partner has given you azithromycin (pills) medicine or a prescription for azithromycin medicine. This medicine or prescription was given to your sex partner by a doctor or other medical provider to treat YOU.

It is very important for you to see your own doctor or medical provider as soon as possible to be examined and tested for this infection. If you cannot have an exam in the next several days, you should take the pill(s) that were provided to you, or have the prescription that was given to you filled at your local pharmacy, and take the medication as instructed by the pharmacist or medical provider. It is very important to see a doctor or medical provider as soon as possible to get examined and tested for this and other STDs. People can have more than one STD at the same time. This medicine will not cure other STDs. Having STDs can increase your risk of getting human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). You may also want to get a test for HIV.

#### WHAT IS CHLAMYDIA?

Chlamydia is a sexually transmitted disease (STD) caused by a bacteria (germ) called *Chlamydia trachomatis*. It is the most commonly reported disease in Wisconsin. Chlamydia infection is a curable sexually transmitted disease (STD) that you can get from having sex with a person who already has it. Many people with Chlamydia infection do not know they have it because they have no symptoms and feel fine. Some people may notice symptoms:

#### SYMPTOMS OF CHLAMYDIA

ALL – Most people DO NOT experience or notice any signs or symptoms at all.

MEN – may notice a discharge (drip) from the penis, pain or discomfort while urinating (peeing), or pain or swelling in their testicles.

WOMEN – may notice an unusual vaginal discharge, or pain or burning when urinating (peeing) and increased need to urinate (pee); pain during sex, bleeding between periods or after sex, lower abdominal (belly), or pelvic (hip) pain or cramps or. Women can become infertile (unable to have children) if they don't get treated (medicine).

**BEFORE TAKING THE MEDICINE, PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING:**

Azithromycin is a very safe antibiotic. However, **DO NOT take it if any of the following are true:**

- You are female and have lower belly pain, pain during sex, vomiting or fever.
- You are male and have pain or swelling in the testicles or fever.
- You have had a bad reaction, rash, breathing problems, or allergic reaction after taking azithromycin, or other antibiotics. People who are allergic to some antibiotics may also be allergic to other types. If you do have allergies to antibiotics, you should be examined by your medical provider before taking this medicine.
- You have a serious long-term illness, such as kidney, heart or liver disease.
- If you are currently taking another prescription medication, including medicine for diabetes, consult your pharmacist before taking the medication to ask about drug interactions.
- If any of these circumstances exist, or if you are not sure, do not take the azithromycin. Instead, you should talk to your doctor or medical provider as soon as possible. Your doctor or medical provider will find the best treatment for you.

**WARNINGS:**

- If you do not take medicine to cure Chlamydia infection, you can get very sick. If you are a woman, you may get chronic (long-term) pelvic pain and might not be able to have children.
- If you are pregnant, seek medical evaluation before taking the medicine.

**DIRECTIONS FOR TAKING AZITHROMYCIN**

DO take all the pills given to you at the same time by mouth with a full glass of water and with food. By taking the pills with food, you are less likely to get an upset stomach or vomit, and the medicine will work better in your body. You need to take all of the medicine you were given to be cured.

DO NOT take antacids (such as Tums, Rolaids, or Maalox) for one hour before or two hours after taking the azithromycin pills.

DO NOT give this medicine to others. It is intended for sex partners of persons who have Chlamydia infection.

**SIDE EFFECTS:**

Possible side effects of taking this medication include:

- Slightly upset stomach
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Dizziness
- Vaginal yeast infection

These are well-known side effects and are not serious. Very few people experience any of these problems.

