

**Doxycycline for biological exposure;
3 days supply.**



**PATIENT GROUP DIRECTION for the SUPPLY OF
DOXYCYCLINE CAPSULES
BY HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS TO
ADULTS AND CHILDREN AGED OVER 12 YEARS
EXPOSED TO SUSPECTED BIOLOGICAL AGENT**

Developed nationally by

	Name	Signature
Physician	Dr M Evans	
Pharmacist	Mr J Farrell	

Reviewed by Department of Health Patient Group Direction Review Group (Biological)

Signed: Dr M Evans (chair) Date:

**PATIENT GROUP DIRECTION for the SUPPLY OF
DOXYCYCLINE CAPSULES BY HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS
TO PATIENTS EXPOSED TO SUSPECTED BIOLOGICAL AGENT**

NHS TRUST ACCOUNTABILITY

This Patient Group Direction has been approved by the (NHS TRUST) Drugs and Therapeutics Committee.

Signed: (chair)

Date:.....

Date approved for use:.....

Local Review Date:

Name of organisation (NHS Trust)		Address of organisation (NHS Trust)	
Signatory	Name	Signature	
Medical Director			
Director of Nursing & Quality			
Clinical Governance Lead			
Trust Chief Pharmacist			

Management of Patient Group Direction

This Patient Group Direction must be read, agreed to and signed by all health professionals involved in its use. The original signed copy should be held by the Trust manager. This Patient Group Direction must be easily accessible to the health professionals in the clinical setting.

LOCAL AUTHORISATION: (e.g. Directorate or Department)

Authorised by.....

On behalf of

Signed

Date of implementation

I have read and understood the Patient Group Direction and agree to use it.

Healthcare professionals:

Name..... Name.....

Date..... Date

Profession Profession

Signature Signature

Name..... Name.....

Date..... Date

Profession Profession

Signature Signature

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PATIENT GROUP DIRECTION for the SUPPLY OF DOXYCYCLINE CAPSULES BY HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS TO ADULTS AND CHILDREN AGED OVER 12 YEARS EXPOSED TO SUSPECTED BIOLOGICAL AGENT

Members of the public who have been exposed to a suspected biological agent should receive an initial supply of three days treatment with doxycycline as prophylaxis against anthrax, plague, tularaemia or other biological agent. This is as a precaution until laboratory results are known. Follow up treatment will be supplied as appropriate.

In some cases doxycycline will be used outside its product license. For the indications listed below the evidence available supports the use of doxycycline for the prevention of these potentially life-threatening conditions.

1. CLINICAL CONDITION

Define situation/condition	Known or suspected exposure to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anthrax • Plague • Tularaemia
Criteria for inclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adults and those aged 12 or over with suspected exposure to a biological agent
Criteria for exclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hypersensitivity to doxycycline or other tetracyclines • Children under 12 years of age
Additional Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pregnancy and nursing mothers Doxycycline is not usually recommended for use in pregnant women. In this case the benefits of using doxycycline to prevent the onset of disease outweigh the potential risks of the drug. Adverse effects on developing teeth and bones are dose related. Therefore, doxycycline may be used for a short course of therapy (7-14 days) prior to the 6th month of pregnancy. Nursing mothers should not breastfeed during treatment with Doxycycline.
Refer to supervising doctor:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women more than six months pregnant • Patient with any exclusion criteria • Systemic lupus erythematosus • Patient declines treatment • Hepatic impairment • Porphyria • Myasthenia gravis • Achorhydria Patients taking any of the following medication Ciclosporin Retinoids (isotretinoin, acitretin, tretinoin) anticoagulants (e.g. warfarin) Antiepileptics e.g. Carbamazepine, phenytoin Oral contraceptives Antacids Sucralfate Barbiturates Penicillins
Action if excluded	Refer to supervising doctor
Action if patient declines	Refer to supervising doctor

2. DESCRIPTION OF TREATMENT

Name, Form and Strength of Medicine	Doxycycline 100mg capsules
POM/P/GSL/▲	POM
Dose/s	Adults: initial dose: One tablet to be taken twice daily for 3 days Ongoing therapy: the designated centre will arrange ongoing therapy.
Route/Method	Oral.
Frequency	Twice daily.
Total dose/number	Six capsules
Follow up	Contact details of the patient must be recorded. Local arrangement must ensure contact is made between the designated centre and all patients to discuss further supplies of doxycycline or an alternative antibiotic, where appropriate.
Adverse reaction/side effects	Reactions ascribed to the drug include: Nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, dysphagia, oesophageal irritation, hypersensitivity reactions (including rash, exfoliative dermatitis, urticaria, angioedema, anaphylaxis, pericarditis), headache and vision disturbances may indicate benign intracranial hypertension; hepatotoxicity, pancreatitis and antibiotic-associated colitis reported. Rarely photosensitivity, blood dyscrasias
Advice	A manufacturers' patient information (PIL) leaflet should be given to the patient. An additional information leaflet covering use in unknown exposure should also be provided.
Record/Audit trail	Records of supply must be maintained and should include the patient name; address; telephone number, GP, drug supplied and quantity supplied, batch number and expiry date. If no supply is made then the reason should be specified.

3. CHARACTERISTICS OF STAFF

Qualifications required	Pharmacists, Registered nurse. (Additional healthcare workers may be identified by the Director of Public Health Medicine or nominated deputy).
Continued training requirements	To be aware of the agents which may be used in a biological attack, the recommended antibiotics and treatment protocols. To be familiar with the side effects of doxycycline