This Patient Group Direction (PGD) must only be used by registered healthcare professionals who have been named and authorised by their organisation to practice under it. The most recent and in date final signed version of the PGD should be used.

PATIENT GROUP DIRECTION (PGD)

Supply of azithromycin for the treatment of uncomplicated *Chlamydia trachomatis*

in community pharmacies within Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire

Version Number 1.2

Change History	
Version and Date	**Change details**
Version 1 April 2020	New template
Version 1.1 May 2020	Minor reordering (content unchanged)
Version 1.2 October 2020	Advisory wording added to inclusion criteria section: ***NOTE*** *– all criteria for inclusion within the BASHH approved national PGD templates for sexual health are based on diagnostic management in line with BASHH guidance. Where services do not have access to diagnostics and treatment is syndromic then the PGD template will need to be locally adapted to reflect local practice being mindful of the BASHH guidance.*

Reference Number: v1.2

Valid from: 1st March 2022

Expiry date: 31st March 2023

This Patient Group Direction (PGD) must only be used by registered professionals who have been named and authorised by their organisation to practise under it (See Appendix A). The most recent and in date final signed version of the PGD must be used.

PGD DEVELOPMENT GROUP

Date PGD template comes into effect:	1st April 2020
Review date	October 2022
Expiry date:	31st March 2023

This PGD template has been peer reviewed by the Reproductive Health PGDs Short Life Working Group in accordance with their Terms of Reference. It has been approved by British Association for Sexual Health and HIV (BASHH)/BASHH Bacterial Special Interest Group (BSIG) in October 2020.

This section MUST REMAIN when a PGD is adopted by an organisation.

Name	Designation
Ali Grant	Highly Specialist Clinical Pharmacist: HIV, Sexual and Reproductive Health
Alison Crompton	Community pharmacy
Amanda Cooper	Associate Director Specialist Pharmacy Service
Andrea Smith	Community pharmacy
Carmel Lloyd	Royal College of Midwives
Chetna Parmar	Pharmacist adviser, Umbrella
Clare Livingstone	Royal College of Midwives
Deborah Redknapp	English HIV and Sexual Health Commissioners Group (EHSHCG)
Dipti Patel	Local authority pharmacist
Dr Achyuta Nori	Consultant in Sexual Health and HIV
Dr Cindy Farmer	Chair General Training Committee Faculty of Sexual and Reproductive Healthcare (FSRH)
Dr John Saunders	Consultant in Sexual Health and HIV
Dr Kathy French	Pan London PGD working group
Dr Rita Browne	Consultant in Sexual Health and HIV
Dr Sarah Pillai	Pan London PGD working group
Emma Anderson	Centre for Pharmacy Postgraduate Education (CPPE)
Helen Donovan	Royal College of Nursing

Jo Jenkins (Woking Group Co-ordinator)	Specialist Pharmacist (PGDs) Specialist Pharmacy Service
Jodie Crossman	Specialist Nurse. BASHH SHAN SIG Chair
Jodie Walker-Haywood	Specialist Nurse, BASHH Board Nurse Representative, BASHH SHAN SIG Secretary
Leanne Bobb	English HIV and Sexual Health Commissioners Group (EHSHCG)
Michelle Jenkins	Advanced Nurse Practitioner, Clinical Standards Committee Faculty of Sexual and Reproductive Healthcare (FSRH)
Portia Jackson	Pharmacist, Cambridgeshire Community Services
Sally Hogan	British Pregnancy Advisory Service (BPAS)
Sandra Wolper	Associate Director Specialist Pharmacy Service
Silvia Ceci	Chief Pharmaceutical Officer's Clinical Fellow Specialist Pharmacy Service
Tracy Rogers	Associate Director Specialist Pharmacy Service

ORGANISATIONAL AUTHORISATIONS

Name	Job title and organisation	Signature	Date
Dr Cindy Farmer	**Education and Training Lead for Unity Sexual Health**		22/09/2021
Debbie Campbell	**Deputy Director (Medicines Optimisation) NHS BNSSG CCG**		30/09/2021
Senior representative of professional group using the PGD	**Michelle Jones** **Senior Medicines Optimisation Pharmacist (Bristol)**		28/09/2021
Public Health Representative in Bristol City Council	**Christina Gray** **Director of Public Health for Bristol**		18/10/21
Public Health Representative in North Somerset Council	**Matt Lenny** **Director of Public Health for North Somerset**		11/10/21
Public Health Representative South Gloucestershire Council	**Prof. Sara Blackmore** **Director of Public Health for South Gloucestershire**		19/10/21

1. Characteristics of staff

Qualifications and professional registration	Registered pharmacist with current GPhC registration. Currently employed or working as a locum pharmacist in a community pharmacy in Bristol, North Somerset or South Gloucestershire
Initial training	The registered healthcare professional authorised to operate under this PGD must have undertaken appropriate education and training and successfully completed the competencies to undertake clinical assessment of patient leading to diagnosis of the conditions listed. The healthcare professional must have completed the CPPE Safeguarding Children and adults e-learning and e-assessment module within the last 2 years
Competency assessment	• Individuals operating under this PGD must complete a self-declaration of competence for Chlamydia testing and/or treatment. • Staff operating under this PGD are encouraged to review their competency using the NICE Competency Framework for health professionals using patient group directions
Ongoing training and competency	• Individuals operating under this PGD are personally responsible for ensuring they remain up to date with the use of all medicines and guidance included in the PGD - if any training needs are identified these should be discussed with the senior individual responsible for authorising individuals to act under the PGD and further training provided as required. • Organisational PGD and/or medication training as required by employing Trust/organisation.
The decision to supply any medication rests with the individual registered health professional who must abide by the PGD and any associated organisational policies.	

2. Clinical condition or situation to which this PGD applies

Clinical condition or situation to which this PGD applies	• Individuals who have a positive genital chlamydia result following screening by the Unity Chlamydia Screening Service. • Sexual contact of a client with a positive genital chlamydia result diagnosed through the Unity Chlamydia Screening Service.

Criteria for inclusion	• Consent given.
	• **Where doxycycline is contraindicated (known allergy, previous adverse effects, pre-existing medical conditions) or inappropriate (photosensitivity, likely poor adherence):**
	  ○ Individuals with a positive test for *Chlamydia trachomatis* infection in the genitals, pharynx or rectum (asymptomatic) but without signs suggestive of complications who have been referred by Unity Sexual Health Screening Service
	  ○ Asymptomatic individuals of sexual contact requiring treatment and referred by Unity Sexual Health Screening Service
	  ○ A single repeat treatment course for individuals who have had sexual intercourse within 7 days of receiving treatment or who have had sex with an untreated partner who have been *referred by Unity Sexual Health Screening Service.*
	• To re-treat client who has vomited within 3 hours of treatment of Chlamydia
	• Consent given.
	• Aged between 13 years and up to and including 24 years. All individual under the age of 18 years - follow local young person's risk assessment or equivalent local process.
	• In exceptional circumstances, the pharmacist may use their professional judgement to supply to a patient aged 25 years or above provided the patient meets the PGD requirements and has been referred by the Unity Screening Programme

Criteria for exclusion	• The pharmacy has not received confirmation from the Unity Screening Office that the individual tested positive for chlamydia trachomatis • The pharmacy has not received confirmation from Unity

Criteria for exclusion continued	Screening Office that the individual is a sexual contact of a client with a positive chlamydia result. • If the Unity Screening Office has determined that doxycycline is the treatment to be used in this client, please refer to the PGD for the supply of doxycycline. • Consent not given. • Individuals under 13 years of age. • Individuals under 16 years old and assessed as lacking capacity to consent using the Fraser Guidelines. • Individuals 16 years of age and over and assessed as lacking capacity to consent. **Medical history** • Individuals with suspected and/or confirmed symptomatic rectal *Chlamydia trachomatis*. • Individuals with suspected or confirmed Lymphogranuloma venereum (LVG) • Known severe hepatic impairment • Known severe renal impairment • Current/past history of cardiac rhythm or conduction disturbance • Presence of concomitant conjunctivitis and/or joint pain/swelling • Acute porphyria • Myasthenia gravis **Medication history** • Any concurrent interacting medicine(s) – see Section 4 Drug interactions. • Known hypersensitivity or allergy to the azithromycin or other macrolide antibiotics or to any component of the product - see Summary of Product Characteristics • Individuals with known azithromycin resistance.
Cautions including any relevant action to be taken	• If the individual is less than 16 years of age an assessment based on Fraser guidelines must be made and documented. • If the presenting individual is under 13 years of age the healthcare professional should speak to local safeguarding

Cautions including any relevant action to be taken continued	lead and follow the local safeguarding policy (note under 13 years of age excluded from treatment under this PGD). • Some brands of azithromycin contain soya or soya lecithin and are therefore contraindicated in individuals with an allergy to soya or peanuts. If individual is allergic, check manufacturer's information for brand being used and if necessary, exclude from PGD or select an alternative suitable brand if available. • Pregnant individuals/individuals known to be at risk of pregnancy – the SPC states that there is limited data on use in pregnancy however BASHH guidelines state: "While adverse pregnancy outcomes are unlikely with the 2g total azithromycin dose, individuals should be advised of the lack of data." The individual must be informed that although the use of azithromycin in pregnancy is thought to be safe, there is limited research available and be fully informed of the risks and benefits of this treatment. • Breastfeeding individuals – BASHH states that 'Very low levels of azithromycin are detected in breast milk, and systemic exposure in infants does not exceed that observed when azithromycin is administered for treatment, therefore risk is considered to be low'. • If the individual is less than 16 years of age an assessment based on Fraser guidelines must be made and documented. • If the presenting individual is under 13 years of age the healthcare professional should speak to local safeguarding lead and follow the local safeguarding policy (note under 13 years of age excluded from treatment under this PGD). • Discuss with appropriate medical/independent non-medical prescriber any medical condition or medication of which the healthcare professional is unsure or uncertain. **Interacting medications and actions** • In patients receiving both azithromycin and antacids, the drugs should not be taken simultaneously. • There have been reports of potentiated anticoagulation subsequent to co-administration of azithromycin and coumarin-type oral anticoagulants. Although a causal relationship has not been established, consideration should be given to referring to GP for INR monitoring in patients receiving coumarin-type oral anticoagulants
Action to be taken if the individual is excluded or declines treatment	• If declined ensure individual is aware of the need for treatment and the potential consequences of not receiving treatment. • Contact Unity Chlamydia Screening Office (0117 342 9600)

	to advise them that the patient is excluded under this PGD • Pregnant individuals/individuals known to be at risk of pregnancy who decline azithromycin treatment should be referred to a prescriber for further consultation. • Explain the reasons for exclusion to the individual and document in the consultation record. • Record reason for decline in the consultation record. • Where required refer the individual to Unity Sexual Health Services screening service, clinic or GP if appropriate and/or provide them with information about further options.

3. Description of treatment

Name, strength & formulation of drug	Azithromycin 250mg capsules or tablets or 500mg tablets
Legal category	POM
Route of administration	Oral
Off label use	Best practice advice is given by BASHH and is used as the reference guidance in this PGD and may vary from the Summary of Product Characteristics (SPC). This PGD includes off label use in the following conditions: • The dose of azithromycin stated in the BASHH guideline and therefore in this PGD is higher than the licensed dose. • Those under 18 years of age and under 45kg weight - azithromycin tablets or capsules are not licensed for use in children or adolescents weighing under 45 kg. • Breastfeeding individuals – BASHH states that 'Very low levels of azithromycin are detected in breast milk, and systemic exposure in infants does not exceed that observed when azithromycin is administered for treatment, therefore risk is considered to be low'. Medicines should be stored according to the conditions detailed in the Storage section below. However, in the event of an inadvertent or unavoidable deviation of these conditions the local pharmacy or Medicines Management team must be consulted. Where medicines have been assessed by pharmacy/Medicines Management in accordance with national or specific product recommendations as appropriate for continued use this would constitute off-label administration under this PGD. The responsibility for the decision to release the affected drugs for use lies with pharmacy/Medicines Management. Where a medicine is recommended off-label consider, as part of the consent process, informing the individual/parent/carer that the drug is being offered in accordance with national guidance but that this is outside the product licence.
Dose and frequency of administration	**Day One:** 1g taken as a single dose **Day Two:** 500mg once daily **Day Three:** 500mg once daily
Duration of treatment	3 days.
Quantity to be supplied	Appropriately labelled pack of 4x500mg tablets or 8x250mg capsules/tablets

	A single repeat course can be supplied under the PGD if vomiting occurs within 3 hours of a dose being taken.
Storage	Medicines must be stored securely according to national guidelines and in accordance with the product SPC.
Drug interactions	All concurrent medications should be reviewed for interactions. The interactions listed as severe in the BNF are: • Colchicine • Digoxin • Edoxaban • Rifabutin • Talazoparib • Ticagrelor • Topotecan • Ergot derivatives A detailed list of all drug interactions is available in the BNF or the product SPC
Identification & management of adverse reactions	A detailed list of adverse reactions is available in the SPC and BNF The following side effects are very common/common with azithromycin: • Nausea • Anorexia • Vomiting • Dyspepsia • Dizziness • Headache • Diarrhoea • Abdominal pain/discomfort • Flatulence • Loose stools • Rash • Pruritus • Arthralgia • Fatigue

	• Visual impairment • Deafness • Paraesthesia • Dysgeusia
Management of and reporting procedure for adverse reactions	• Healthcare professionals and patients/carers are encouraged to report suspected adverse reactions to the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) using the Yellow Card reporting scheme • Advise the client to contact their GP or a sexual health clinic if the client experiences any adverse effects to the treatment. • Record all adverse drug reactions (ADRs) in the patient's medical record. • Report via organisation incident policy. **Anaphylaxis** Before administering any medication, the possibility of anaphylaxis must be considered, and appropriate medical treatment should be available for immediate use in case of anaphylactic reactions. For further information, please see the resuscitation council guidelines. http://www.resus.org.uk/pages/glalgos.htm http://www.resus.org.uk/pages/reaction.pdf
Written information and further advice to be given to individual	**Medication:** • Give patient information leaflet (PIL) provided with the original pack. Explain mode of action, side effects, and benefits of the medicine • Azithromycin tablets can be taken at any time in relation to food but there should be a gap between taking the tablets and antacids.

- Azithromycin capsules should be taken one hour before or two hours after food or antacids
- If vomiting occurs within 3 hours of taking capsules/tablets offer option of repeat dose of azithromycin (under PGD). Seek advice from Unity Chlamydia Screening service on 0117 342 6900 if unsure.
- In females taking oral contraceptives, if they do experience vomiting or diarrhoea after taking azithromycin, this may lead to contraceptive failure. They should refer to the instruction leaflet that comes with their oral contraceptive pill, to minimise the risk of contraceptive failure. There is no interaction between azithromycin and oral contraceptives; the warning is related to risk of vomiting/diarrhoea after taking azithromycin.

Condition:

- Individuals should be offered information (verbal, written and/or digital) about their diagnosis and management. (Information on Chlamydia and other sexually transmitted diseases is available from: http://www.fpa.org.uk/helpandadvice/sexuallytransmittedinfectionsstis/chlamydia)
- Discuss implications of incompletely treated/untreated infection of self or partner/s. The importance of sexual partner(s) being evaluated and treated should be highlighted.
- Advise to abstain completely from sexual intercourse (even with condoms) including oral sex, during treatment, for seven days after treatment and for seven days after partner(s) treatment. Where not achievable advise on use of condoms.
- Discuss risk of re-infection, and further transmission of infection, if after treatment sexual intercourse takes place with an untreated partner/s
- Discuss partner notification and issue contact slips if appropriate
- Offer condoms and advice on safer sex practices and possible need for screening for sexually transmitted infections (STIs)
- Advise the patient to contact the Unity Sexual Health Clinic in 5 weeks for a retest (0117 342 6900)

Follow up treatment	• The individual should be advised to contact Unity Sexual Health Service for a retest after 5 weeks
	• The individual should be advised to seek medical advice in the event of an adverse reaction.
	• If clients cannot be treated under this PGD, they should be referred back to the Unity Chlamydia Screening Office, or their GP, or a sexual health service
	• Routine follow-up for uncomplicated *Chlamydia trachomatis* following treatment with azithromycin is unnecessary. Follow advice from Unity Sexual Health screening service, in the following situations:
	  ○ Pregnancy.
	  ○ Where poor compliance is suspected.
	  ○ Where symptoms persist.
	  ○ Rectal infections.

Records	Record the supply in the patient's medication records, and the below information onto PharmOutcomes in line with the service protocol. Following the PharmOutcomes template will result in all of the required information being recorded
	
	Record:
	• The consent of the individual and
	  ○ If individual is under 13 years of age record action taken
	  ○ If individual is under 16 years of age document capacity using Fraser guidelines. If not competent record action taken.
	  ○ If individual over 16 years of age and not competent, record action taken
	• If individual not treated under PGD record action taken
	• Name of individual, address, date of birth
	• GP contact details where appropriate
	• Relevant past and present medical and sexual history, including medication history.
	• Examination or microbiology finding/s where relevant.
	• Any known allergies and nature of reaction
	• Name of registered health professional
	• Name of medication supplied
	• Date of supply
	• Dose supplied

	• Quantity supplied including batch number and expiry date in line with local procedures. • Advice given about the medication including side effects, benefits, and when and what to do if any concerns • Advice given, including advice given if excluded or declines treatment • Details of any adverse drug reactions and actions taken • Any referral arrangements made • Any supply outside the terms of the product marketing authorisation • Recorded that supplied via Patient Group Direction (PGD) Records should be signed and dated (or a password controlled e-records) and securely kept for a defined period in line with local policy. All records should be clear, legible and contemporaneous. A record of all individuals receiving treatment under this PGD should also be kept for audit purposes in accordance with local policy.

4. Key references

Key references (accessed February 2020)	• BNSSG Primary Care Antimicrobial Guidelines v8.1 2021 https://remedy.bnssgccg.nhs.uk/formulary-adult/local-guidelines/5-infections-guidelines/ • Electronic Medicines Compendium http://www.medicines.org.uk/ • Electronic BNF https://bnf.nice.org.uk/ • NICE Medicines practice guideline "Patient Group Directions" https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/mpg2 • BASHH CEG September 2018 – Update on the treatment of *Chlamydia trachomatis* (CT) infection https://www.bashhguidelines.org/media/1191/update-on-the-treatment-of-chlamydia-trachomatis-infection-final-16-9-18.pdf • BASSH UK National Guideline on the • management of non-gonococcal urethritis www.bashhguidelines.org/media/1051/ngu-2015.pdf; • British Association for Sexual Health and HIV national guideline for the management of infection with *Mycoplasma genitalium* www.bashhguidelines.org/media/1198/mg-2018.pdf • Royal Pharmaceutical Society Safe and Secure Handling of Medicines December 2018 https://www.rpharms.com/recognition/setting-professional-standards/safe-and-secure-handling-of-medicines • BASHH UK National Guideline for the management of infection with Mycoplasma genitalium (2018) ngu-bashh-update-2018.pdf (bashhguidelines.org)

Appendix A - Registered health professional authorisation sheet

PGD Name/Version: Azithromycin **Valid from: October 2021** **Expiry: 31/03/2023**

Before signing this PGD, check that the document has had the necessary authorisations. Without these, this PGD is not lawfully valid.

Registered health professional

By signing this patient group direction you are indicating that you agree to its contents and that you will work within it. Patient group directions do not remove inherent professional obligations or accountability.

It is the responsibility of each professional to practise only within the bounds of their own competence and professional code of conduct.

I confirm that I have read and understood the content of this Patient Group Direction and that I am willing and competent to work to it within my professional code of conduct.			
Name	**Designation**	**Signature**	**Date**
