**Category 3: Written or electronic notification within 7days of diagnosing by private and public health laboratories.**

**CEFTRIAXONE –RESISTANT NEISSERIA GONORRHOEA**

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| **Disease epidemiology** | **Who must notify** | **Confirmed case definition** |
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| Gonorrhoea is a sexually transmitted infection caused by the bacterium *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*. The organism can infect the urogenital tract causing urethritis in men, and cervicitis or abnormal vaginal discharge in women. In South Africa, *N. gonorrhoeae* is the commonest cause of Male Urethritis Syndrome (in approximately 80% of cases). A significant proportion of infections, particularly in women, may be asymptomatic. A small proportion of infected persons will develop disseminated gonococcal infection by haematogenous spread, manifesting as an arthritis-dermatitis syndrome. *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* has the capacity to evolve and rapidly develop resistance to all first-line antimicrobials used in treatment. For this reason, it has been designated a high priority pathogen by the WHO. The currently recommended treatment for urogenital gonorrhoea is dual ceftriaxone 250mg stat IM + azithromycin 1g stat PO. Ceftriaxone, which is an extended-spectrum cephalosporin, is the mainstay of therapy for *N. gonorrhoeae* and it is essential to monitor for resistance to this agent, particularly in cases of suspected treatment failure (i.e. non-resolving/ persistent urogenital infection).  *N. gonorrhoeae* may be cultured from persons who are  symptomatic or asymptomatic for gonorrhoea. Specimens for culture include dacron or nylon flocked swabs of urogenital tract/ pharynx/ rectum/ ocular discharge; and sterile sites specimens (blood, synovial fluid). | Ceftriaxone-resistant gonorrhoea will be notified by public or private health laboratories following culture isolation of *N. gonorrhoeae* and antimicrobial susceptibility testing.  Isolate should be referred to STI Reference laboratory at NICD for confirmation of ceftriaxone resistance and further testing.  Confirmation of ceftriaxone resistance will be done by STI reference laboratory at NICD. | *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* culture isolate with Ceftriaxone E-test MIC > 0.25 µg/ml |