



Doxy-PEP as an STI prevention option for eligible patients – information for General Practitioners

Doxycycline Post-exposure Prophylaxis (Doxy-PEP) is available as an emerging sexually transmissible infection (STI) prevention strategy for eligible patients at increased risk of bacterial STIs, and General Practitioners (GPs) are encouraged to consider its use where appropriate.

Doxy-PEP involves taking **200mg of doxycycline within 72 hours after sexual exposure** and has been shown to significantly reduce the risk of **syphilis and chlamydia**. Doxy-PEP should be considered primarily for the prevention of syphilis among gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men (GBMSM) and transgender women who are at increased risk of STIs.

Suitability should be determined through a comprehensive sexual health risk assessment, with considerations given to GBMSM and transgender women who have had a recent syphilis diagnosis, recurrent bacterial STIs, anticipated periods of increased STI exposure risk, partners with a uterus, or who present for HIV PEP/PrEP. However, eligibility for HIV PrEP/PEP alone should not be used as an indicator for Doxy-PEP prescribing.

When prescribing Doxy-PEP, it is important to:

- Continue routine STI and HIV screening, including three-monthly testing where appropriate.
- Discuss the potential benefits and risks, including antimicrobial resistance (AMR) considerations.
- Assess HIV risk and support access to HIV prevention strategies such as PrEP where indicated.

The Australasian Society for HIV, Viral Hepatitis and Sexual Health Medicine (ASHM) **Doxy-PEP Decision Making Tool** is available to support GPs with prescribing Doxy-PEP to their patients.

An Australian Doxy-PEP Clinical Guidelines is currently under development.

For further information and resources, please refer to the [ASHM Doxy-PEP Hub](#)

Lastly, to support consumer awareness of Doxy-PEP, the attached **Doxy-PEP poster** is encouraged to be displayed within general practices.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to sexual health promotion and STI prevention within our community.

WA Country Health Service