

Note: PDFs are available upon request from Dan, email: dan@jba-cht.com

STDs

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Digest for January/February 2009

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Digest for January/February 2009

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**Program and Training Branch (PTB) Thursday Report
Monthly Highlights from the STD Programs
January 2009**

BALTIMORE

The Baltimore City Health Department is releasing its 2008 report on its pilot program to provide expedited partner therapy for gonorrhea and chlamydia infection.

The report finds that this innovative approach to treatment - under which patients deliver antibiotics directly to up to three sexual partners - is associated with a statistically significant 41% reduction in rates of reinfection.

The report is available online at www.baltimorehealth.org

Contact Rianna Brown, by email at Mediahealth@baltimorecity.gov or by phone at 410-396-4398.

Contact: David Byrum: RDB4@cdc.gov

IDAHO

This winter, the Idaho Family Planning, STD, and HIV Program is working to increase knowledge of STD and HIV and to promote traffic to the www.nakedtruth.idaho.gov STD and HIV prevention Website using a fun, youth-oriented online quiz regarding STD and HIV facts. The questions were based on common misconceptions found in a telephone survey of more than 500 15- to 24-year-olds in Idaho, conducted in late 2007, that showed Idaho youth had numerous misconceptions about STDs and HIV.

The Website and quiz are being promoted using palm cards, with one quiz question (without the answer) and an attractive graphic. The cards are being distributed to 15- to 24-year-olds at clinics, coffee shops, and bars. The card directs the reader to the Website to get the correct answer and to take a longer version of the quiz. Readers also can place a widget to the Website on their MySpace homepage.

The questions were written by the STD Prevention staff and then given to members of a local youth group, "Youth in the Know," to pilot the quiz and make sure the terminology and humor was relevant to young people.

The site began in April of 2008 and has had an average of 933 visitors each month (excluding bounce backs). The average visitor stays on the site for 2.5 minutes and checks out 3.45 pages. One of the most popular pages on the site is the list of clinic locations and hours.

Contact: Susan Arrowsmith, SLA2@cdc.gov

ILLINOIS

An Adolescent Sexual Health Toolkit was developed by the Illinois Caucus for Adolescent Health (ICAH)* in partnership with the Illinois Department of Public Health, the Illinois Department of Human Services, and with the Illinois State Board of Education to create a resource that can be used by a variety of professionals who provide adolescent services. School personnel, public health staff, and community-based providers such as nurses, counselors, and caseworkers will find within the toolkit current information, cutting-edge approaches, and effective policies and practices that can influence their work with adolescents they serve. The toolkit is based on the premise that if adolescent service providers discuss sexual health in a holistic approach and use resources provided in the toolkit to achieve that end, today's adolescents will make wiser decisions about their own sexual health.

Considering national and statewide increases in sexually transmitted disease, HIV infection, and teen pregnancy rates, an urgent need exists for an instrument that provides standard of care information and interventions that will counter these adverse health outcomes in adolescents. The Adolescent Sexual Health Toolkit is just such a resource, cataloguing information into prevention strategies, fact sheets, journal articles, websites, innovative strategies, data, recommended curricula, and much more.

The toolkit was showcased at Illinois' 17th Annual HIV/STD Conference in October 2008. Six regional training sessions will be conducted by ICAH early in 2009 on applying the toolkit. Participants will receive a flash drive with the contents of the toolkit and access to a Website with periodic updates.

*In partnership with young people, the Illinois Caucus for Adolescent Health advocates sound policies and practices that promote a positive approach to adolescent sexual health and parenting. Strategies include leadership development, policy analysis and development, advocacy, training, and grassroots organizing.

For more information about ICAH or the Adolescent Sexual Health Toolkit, please visit www.icaah.org or contact Vivian Barrett, Manager of Training and Resources at vivian@icaah.org or at (312) 427-4460 x228.

Contact: Ron Turski, RAT3@cdc.gov

INDIANA

The Indiana Strategic Plan for the Prevention, Care, and Elimination of Viral Hepatitis was released on November 20, 2008, following a two-year development process. The process was spearheaded by the Indiana Viral Hepatitis Advisory Council, which was convened by State Health Commissioner, Dr. Judy Monroe. The plan is divided into four principles and is further divided into goals and then action items, and it builds upon current activities within the state while calling for increased activity and state funding for these activities. The four principles of the Indiana plan include Surveillance; Prevention

and Education; Comprehensive Care; and Grants, Legislation, and Policy Development. For more information please contact Erika L. Chapman at echapman@isdh.in.gov or at 317-233-7743. This report is posted on ISDH's web site at the following link: <http://www.in.gov/isdh/23969.htm>

Contact: Tracey Hardy, TJH0@cdc.gov

MICHIGAN

As accurate and complete data are fundamental to providing high-quality service, to valid epidemiology, and to developing targeted interventions, the Infertility Prevention Project (IPP) of the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH), Division of Health, Wellness and Disease Control, STD Program has created the *You Decide* data improvement campaign.

In 2008, the Michigan IPP applied for and was awarded funding from the Region V IPP coordinating agency to develop a plan to improve the comprehensiveness and quality of race and ethnicity data in Michigan. The *You Decide* Campaign materials have been developed as one tool to improve the comprehensiveness of these data.

The campaign has two target audiences: the provider, who completes forms and reports morbidity, and the patients, who are asked to provide demographic information at the time of service. The materials were developed with target community input, and they are at a 4th-grade reading level. The target messages are intended to demonstrate why the information is asked for. The target messages explain 1) that race and ethnicity are two different concepts; 2) that comprehensive data help improve services to diverse communities; and 3) that it is essential that the respondent answer **all** race and ethnicity questions when they are presented.

Materials for distribution are posters, folders, and privacy flaps to be used in offices. They will be distributed in bulk to all agencies who submit specimens to the MDCH Bureau of Laboratories for STD testing. Additionally, local health department staff members will be enlisted as a secondary distribution network to forward materials to major reporters of STDs in their geographic areas.

In early 2009, MDCH will conduct technical assistance and training to increase comfort and knowledge surrounding use of the *You Decide* materials and data collection practices.

The campaign was developed with public dollars and is open access. For more information about the campaign or to request sample materials, contact Amy Peterson at 313-456-4425, or at peterstonam@michigan.gov

Contact: Sheldon Black, [SXB5@cdc.gov](mailto: SXB5@cdc.gov)

SAN FRANCISCO

1. The unofficial number of early syphilis cases reported in San Francisco in 2008 is 542, a 54% increase compared to 2007. This is the highest number of early syphilis cases reported since the syphilis epidemic peaked in 2004, when 552 cases were reported.

2. The STD Section is currently working with Better World Advertising to implement a new social marketing campaign that “brings back” the Healthy Penis. This campaign has huge name recognition in the community, and we are hoping that bringing back this much-loved character will result in more attention being paid to the “Get Tested” for syphilis and other STDs messages. The STD Section also has developed a specially designed postcard, with a picture of the Syphilis Team staff on the front, for private providers to give to their patients in whom a new syphilis infection has been diagnosed. The postcard lets patients know that a member of the STD Section staff will be calling them to follow up and to encourage those patients to cooperate with STD staff members when they call.

3. On top of reductions made to all city budgets in response to the \$100 million mid-year budget deficit, the city is now projecting a \$500 million dollar deficit by July 2009. As a result, the mayor has instructed the Health Department to cut \$100 million dollars from its budget. To meet this goal, the Director of Health has directed all programs to come up with a plan to reduce their budgets by 12.5%, as well as another 12.5% reduction as a contingency. These new cuts are in addition to the mid-year cuts being implemented on February 2, 2009, which will result in the STD Section’s General Fund budget losing one vacant position, half of a filled position, and \$72,500 for purchasing STD test kits/supplies. In addition to the other cuts noted above, these earlier reductions will be annualized for the 2009-2010 fiscal year.

4. In response to the city’s budget deficit, all unfilled General Fund positions remain frozen or have been deleted for salary savings. Contractual positions continue to be closely scrutinized because of the current effort to use all available funds to retain city employees who might otherwise be laid off rather than to hire contractors.

Contact: Patrick Harris, PBH3@cdc.gov

VIRGINIA

On Friday December 12, 2008, the Virginia Department of Health, Richmond City Health Department, and eleven community organizations conducted a large-scale outreach testing event for syphilis and HIV. The event was coordinated by Fan Free Clinic, a local community-based organization in Richmond. Referred to as PUSH (Partners Unlocking Syphilis and HIV), the event included outreach, education, and testing conducted at nine sites in the Richmond metro area. Each site was specifically selected based on cluster analysis techniques to reach the populations most at risk. The testing times varied at each site but were specifically selected to coincide with the times at which the target populations were most likely accessible. Testing began at noon in

three sites and concluded at 2:00 a.m. at the final location. Vans belonging to the syphilis outbreak response team and to the Fan Free Clinic were used at a few sites.

In all, 138 persons were tested for HIV and 97 for syphilis. Six new HIV infections were diagnosed and referred for treatment. Numerous persons tested positive for syphilis; follow-up to confirm their diagnoses continues. The yield from the event was better than expected because of the high positivity rates. Higher numbers of tests had been hoped for, but a strong rainstorm washed out most of the outreach that would have brought larger numbers of persons to the testing sites.

The event was in response to an outbreak of syphilis in the Richmond metro area. HIV and AIDS case reports had recently increased as well. Follow-up events are being planned.

Contact: Patrick Harris, PBH3@cdc.gov

Training Highlights March – May 2009

The “Training Highlights” section provides information on upcoming STD training activities of the National Network of STD/HIV PTCs (NNPTC) and the Health Professional Training and Education Unit in the DSTDP. For complete descriptions of classes and self-study educational resources, please visit www.stdhivpreventiontraining.org (the NNPTC website) and <http://www.cdc.gov/std/training/> (the CDC STD training website).

Partner Services and Program Support Training

Please check the DSTDP Training Webpage <http://www.cdc.gov/std/training/courses.htm> for the 2009 Training schedule for the Advanced STD Intervention (ASTDI) course, the STD Intervention for Supervisors (STDIS) course, and the Principles of Supervision course.

Clinical and Laboratory Training

STD Intensive Clinical Courses

STD Intensive Course

March 3-5, 2009 Rochester NY

Sponsor: Region II PTC, www.nyc.gov/health/std

Contact: CHBT chbt@monroecounty.gov, or 585-753-5382

STD Intensive Course

March 16-20, 2009, Philadelphia, PA

Sponsor: Region III STD/HIV PTC, www.stdpreventiontraining.jhmi.edu TRAINING 3, PAMAAETC-Health Federation LPS and Philadelphia Department of Health

Contact: Nathaniel Barkley Nathaniel.barkley@phila.gov, or 215-685-6576

STD Part Time Intensive

March 24-26, 2009, Cincinnati, OH

Sponsor: Cincinnati PTC, www.stdptc.uc.edu, and the Cincinnati Health Department

Contact: Barbara Forney, forneyba@ucmail.uc.edu, or 513-558-3197

Three day STD Clinical Intensive Flex course

March 31, 2009, Boston, MA

Sponsor: Sylvie Ratelle, STD/HIV Prevention Training Center of New England,

<http://www.state.ma.us/dph/cdc/std/>

Contact: Janine Dyer, Janine.Dyer@state.ma.us, or 617-983-6964

Three Day STD Clinical Intensive Flex course

April 22, 2009, Hartford, CT

Sponsor: Sylvie Ratelle STD/HIV Prevention Training Center of New England,

<http://www.state.ma.us/dph/cdc/std/>

Contact: Janine Dyer, Janine.Dyer@state.ma.us, or 617-983-6964

STD Intensive

April 27 – May 1, 2009, Cincinnati, OH

Sponsor: Cincinnati PTC, www.stdptc.uc.edu, and the Cincinnati Health Department

Contact: Barbara Forney, forneyba@usmail.us.edu or 513-558-3197

STD Intensive Course

May 4-8, 2009, Baltimore, Maryland

Sponsors: Region III STD/HIV PTC, www.stdpreventiontraining.jhmi.edu,

PAMAAETC-Johns Hopkins LPS, and BCHD

Contact: Jeanne Hoover, Jeanne.hoover@baltimorecity.gov -410-396-0176/0616

STD/HIV Clinical Update Courses

Sexually Transmitted Infections: Clinical Update

March 18, 2009, San Francisco, CA

Sponsor: Contemporary Forums, California STD/HIV Prevention Training Center,

Seattle Prevention Training Center, Baltimore Prevention Training Center

Contact information: www.cforums.com/m411109/precon.asp

STD Update with Optional Clinical Practicum

March 30 – 31, 2009, Anchorage, AK

Sponsor: Seattle STD/HIV Prevention Training Center, www.SeattleSTDHIVPTC.org,

State of Alaska Department of Health and Social Services and the Municipality of

Anchorage Department of Health & Human Services Reproductive Health Clinic

Contact: Ronnie Staats, rstaats@u.washington.edu, or 206-685-9848

Sexually Transmitted Infections: Clinical Update

April 1, 2009, Washington, DC

Sponsor: Contemporary Forums, California STD/HIV Prevention Training Center, Seattle STD/HIV Prevention Training Center, Baltimore STD/HIV Prevention Training Center

Contact information: www.cforums.com/m411109/precon.asp

HIV Level 1 Course

April 15-17, 2009, Baltimore, MD

Sponsor: Region III STD/HIV PTC, www.stdpreventiontraining.jhmi.edu, PA MidAtlantic AIDS ETC (PAMAAETC)-Institute of Human Virology LPS and Maryland AIDS Administration.

Contact: Jeanne Hoover Jeanne.hoover@baltimorecity.gov -410-396-0176/0616

2009 STDs, HIV & Sexual Health Conference

April 23, 2009

Sponsor: California STD/HIV Prevention Training Center, San Francisco AIDS Education and Training Center, San Francisco Department of Public Health

Contact information: www.sfaetc.ucsf.edu

Clinical Exam Skills and Laboratory Skills Courses

Venipuncture Techniques

April 23, 2009, Seattle, WA

Sponsor: Seattle STD/HIV Prevention Training Center www.SeattleSTDHIVPTC.org and WA State Public Health Laboratory

Contact: Ronnie Staats, rstaats@u.washington.edu, or 206-685-9848

Wet Mount Laboratory Course

May 13, 2009, Boston, MA

Sponsor: Sylvie Ratelle STD/HIV Prevention Training Center of New England, <http://www.state.ma.us/dph/cdc/std/>

Contact: Janine Dyer, Janine.Dyer@state.ma.us, or 617-983-6964

Essential STD Exams Skills

May 11-12, 2009, Seattle, WA

Sponsor: Seattle STD/HIV Prevention Training Center, www.SeattleSTDHIVPTC.org, and Public Health—Seattle & King County Health Department

Contact: Ronnie Staats, rstaats@u.washington.edu, or 206-685-9848

Clinical Preceptorship in an STD Clinic

Dates made by arrangement, San Francisco, CA

Sponsor: *California STD/HIV Prevention Training Center*

Contact information: www.stdhivtraining.org, or (510) 625-6043

Webcast

Viral STD Webcast

March 26, 2009

Sponsors: Region II STD/HIV PTC, Sylvie Ratelle PTC of New England, Region III PTC, Center for Health and Behavioral training and the New York State PTC
Contact: Local PTC for registration information

Self-Study Clinical Continuing Education Offerings (free CE credit available)

Illuminate Live! Free Webinar Sessions!

Join us for online distant learning trainings. Sit at your desk, have co-workers join you - and participate in lectures and discussions on all the hottest STD topics. CME's are available. All eLearning seminars are 12:30 – 2:00 PM Eastern Time.
Contact Barbara Forney at forneyba@usmail.us.edu, or 513-558-3197

Web Based STD Update with FREE CME (1 hour, category 1, CME)

Available at <http://www.cecentral.com/STDupdate>

STD Clinical Intensive Continuing Education Module

This offering features clinical illustrations and video segments on topics such as syphilis, gonorrhea, viral hepatitis, syndromic approach to STDs, and more.

Available at <http://www.bu.edu/cme/std/>

Online Chlamydia Case-Based Training

This course provides screening, diagnosis, and treatment information for chlamydial infections in women in case-based, interactive format.

Available at www.stdhivtraining.org

NNPTC STD Case Series

This web-based case series is designed for practicing clinicians who diagnose, treat and manage patients with, or at risk for, STDs. The series includes case presentations of common STD-related syndromes with a guided, interactive process to evaluate each case, arrive at a diagnosis and provide recommended treatment.

Available at www.stdhivtraining.org

CDC Self-Study STD Modules for Clinicians

This site offers seven web-based educational modules, each based on a specific STD topic. Each module is considered to be an individual course. The target audience is clinicians in primary care settings who desire a basic introduction to STD diagnosis and management.

Available at <http://www2a.cdc.gov/stdtraining/self-study/default.asp>

Other Clinical Resources

**Performing Basic STD Examinations*

Lectures on a CD that provide thorough, step-by-step instruction on how to take a sexual history and perform and STD examination, including demonstration of examination techniques and proper specimen collection. After completion of the lecture and demonstration, participants attend a hands-on practicum at one of four model STD clinics.

Sponsor: Cincinnati PTC, www.stdptc.uc.edu , and the Cincinnati Health Department
Contact: Janice Davis, Janice.Davis2@cincinnati-oh.gov, or 513-357-7325

**STI Provider Toolkits* now available. The toolkit includes information on screening, syphilis diagnosis and management, reporting information and a summary laminated STD treatment guidelines card.

Contact: Region II PTC, nycptc@health.nyc.gov, or 212 788 7466

elearning Seminar Series Lectures

Sponsor: Cincinnati PTC, www.stdptc.uc.edu and the Cincinnati Health Department
Continuing education for Health Care Providers at your own computer. Relevant Up-to-Date information for Clinical Practitioners based on CDC's STD Treatment Guidelines and presented by experienced clinicians and experts in the STD/HIV Field. Multiple lectures archived on the website with CME's available including Chlamydia Update; What's new on the Streets – Drugs and STDs, Mycoplasma genitalium: A new STI; Non-invasive STD Tests: Pros and Cons.

Contact: Barbara Forney, forneyba@ucmail.uc.edu, or 513-558-3197

STD Workshop – This five hour workshop focuses on the techniques for performing male and female genital examinations. The experiential portion of the training includes examinations on plastic models while reviewing the proper collection technique for evaluating male urethral discharge and female vaginal/cervical discharge.

Contact: Patricia Jennings of the AL/NC STD/HIV PTC pjennings@uab.edu, or 205-934-4432

Wet Prep on Demand - When you are ready, we are ready! Schedule a date for your convenience to receive hands-on training in Wet Prep designed especially for laboratorians and nurse clinicians who perform “physician performed microscopy.” Training is limited to 2 participants per date, Length: 1 day, 7 category 1 CME available, Cincinnati, OH, Scholarships available.

Contact: Janice Davis, Janice.davis2@cincinnati-oh.gov, or 513-357-7325

The online *Practitioner's Handbook for the Management of Sexually Transmitted Disease* (updated December 2004) is available at www.STDhandbook.org

Prevention and Management of STDs in Men Who Have Sex with Men: A Toolkit for Clinicians is designed to assist clinicians in supporting STD prevention efforts among men who have sex with men.

To order a copy of the toolkit, contact the STD/HIV PTC of New England at 617-983-6945.

Darkfield on Demand - When you are ready, we are ready! Schedule a date for your convenience to receive hands-on training in Darkfield Microscopy for Syphilis. Training is limited to 2 participants per date, Length: 1 day, 7 category 1 CME available, Cincinnati, OH, Scholarships available.

Contact: Janice Davis, Janice.davis2@cincinnati-oh.gov, or 513-357-7325

The *Ready-to-Use STD Curriculum* for Clinical Educators targets faculty in clinical education programs, including those programs that train advanced practice nurses, physician assistants, and physicians.

This product can be found at <http://www2.cdc.gov/stdtraining/ready-to-use/> or through the STD training homepage.

STD 101 in a Box targets a more general audience, including community-based organizations, public health departments, schools of public health, health educators, primary care providers, and Disease Intervention Specialists (DIS).

This product can be found at <http://www2.cdc.gov/std101> or through the STD training homepage.

Patient-Delivered Partner Therapy for Chlamydia trachomatis and Neisseria gonorrhoeae: Guidance for Medical Providers in California was developed by the California Department of Public Health, STD Control Branch in collaboration with the California STD Controllers Association, and is intended to provide guidance for clinical practice in the implementation of this California legislation (Health and Safety Code Section 120582). The guidelines focus on PDPT strategies, and provide information on the most appropriate patients, medications, and counseling procedures recommended to maximize patient and public health benefit while minimizing risk.

Contact: Linda Creegan, Linda.Creegan@cdph.ca.gov or 510-625-6034

The *California STD Treatment Guidelines for Adults and Adolescents 2007*, and the *Arizona and Nevada STD Treatment Guidelines for adults and adolescents 2007* are summary guidelines for the treatment of patients with STDs reflect the 2006 CDC STD Treatment Guidelines and MMWR April 2007, Update to the CDC STD Treatment Guidelines, Fluoroquinolones no longer recommended for treatment of gonococcal infections. The focus is primarily on STDs encountered in office practice. They are in an easy-to-read grid layout, and can be down-loaded as a two-sided, one page reference material.

Contact: Linda Creegan, Linda.Creegan@cdph.ca.gov, or 510-625-6034

The Region II PTC has developed a *Syphilis CME Module* which is now available to clinical providers. The module is a source of clinical guidance and includes the natural history of syphilis and key steps in the diagnosis and management of syphilis.

To request a copy, please email NYCPTC@health.nyc.gov

Other Behavioral Resources

Kaleidoscope: Working effectively with Gay / Bi Men & MSM -The Kaleidoscope Training enhances the knowledge, skill and sensitivity of STD/HIV prevention and/or care service providers so that they may better assess and support the health concerns of diverse gay men and other MSM during the provision of services. These trainings use minimum of didactic content and a majority of activities that incorporate opportunities for both experiential and cooperative learning to occur. These STD/HIV provider trainings take a broad look at a variety of topics related to the health and wellness needs

of gay men and other MSM populations and the best practices for providing services to them.

An intervention brochure written in English and Spanish for the individual level intervention *Stage-based Behavioral Counseling* (SBC) is available. This HIV prevention intervention is adapted from the Stages of Change/Transtheoretical Model of Behavior Change Theory and is an integrated approach to STD/HIV prevention. The SBC training course is available for programs or agencies to improve their effectiveness in helping clients change high-risk behaviors.

Call CHBT at 585-753-5382 to request a copy of the guide.

In collaboration with the Partner Services Program, the CA PTC has developed a new course titled *New Challenges, New Considerations Working with HIV+ Clients for Disease Intervention Specialists*. This is a two-day training designed to improve skills in partner elicitation, notification and risk reduction efforts with HIV+ clients. The training focuses on psychosocial factors that are specific to living with HIV that may impact risk and the ability to disclose HIV status. The training offers skill building opportunities for providers to incorporate the knowledge of these factors in the structured interviews with clients.

*New offering this quarter



February 9, 2009

Dear Colleague,

This letter is to provide health care providers with information about a recall of Azithromycin 500mg tablets manufactured by Greenstone. Azithromycin is the recommended [treatment for chlamydial infections](#).

Greenstone issued a voluntary retail-level drug recall on December 29, 2008 for one lot (NDC 59762-3070-2 Lot 6HP033A) of Azithromycin 500mg tablets - 30 count bottles because the lot may not meet dissolution specifications on stability (see attachment). The affected lot was shipped between August 2006 and August 2007 and has an expiration date of May 2009.

CDC has been in contact with Pfizer/Greenstone and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to gather information regarding the extent of the situation and the impact on the efficacy of the recalled medication. Based on the information we have received, we recommend that STD programs do the following:

1. Adhere to the instructions in the Drug Recall letter:
 - a. Check your inventory for the affected lot.
 - b. Discontinue the distribution of the affected lot.
 - c. Work with your site procurement organization to coordinate return of the affected lot to Stericycle, Inc.
2. Review your mechanism for monitoring lot numbers and expiration dates for medications received and distributed by your STD program.
3. Health care providers are encouraged to retest patients with chlamydial infections according to the [2006 STD Treatment Guidelines](#).
4. If a patient was treated for a chlamydial infection with the affected lot and has a treatment failure, providers should 1) retreat the patient using another alternative (either by using a different lot of the same product or another comparable medication) and 2) report the treatment failure to the [FDA MedWatch](#).

Please circulate this guidance to other colleagues who may have received the recalled product. Healthcare professionals with medical inquiries on azithromycin can contact Pfizer Medical Information at (800) 438-1985. For additional questions regarding the recall, contact Neisa M. Alonso, Consumer Safety Officer, Recall & Emergency Coordinator, U.S. Food and Drug Administration at (787) 474-9501 or Neisa.Alonso@FDA.HHS.GOV.

Sincerely,

/John M. Douglas, Jr./

John M. Douglas Jr., MD
Director
Division of STD Prevention
National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD and TB Prevention



GREENSTONE
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LLC

URGENT: DRUG RECALL

December 29, 2008

Azithromycin 500 mg Tablets

NDC	Lot	Expiration	Strength	Configuration/Count
59762-3070-2	6HP033A	May 2009	500 mg tablet	30 count bottles

Dear Customer:

Greenstone LLC is voluntarily recalling the above referenced lot of **Azithromycin 500 mg tablets**. Greenstone LLC voluntarily initiated this recall when it was determined that the above mentioned lot may not meet dissolution specifications on stability. Please note that when using this product as directed, the probability of serious adverse health consequences is remote.

Please note that the NDC number stated on the bottle is 59762-3070-2. The NDC number currently listed with the FDA is 59762-3070-1. Greenstone has decided with FDA to revise and list the NDC number 59762-3070-2 as stated on the bottle. **This recall only involves lot 6HP033A in the package configuration of 30 count bottles; it does not affect the blister pack configuration.**

FEDERAL REGULATIONS REQUIRE THAT YOU RESPOND TO THIS RECALL, EVEN IF YOU DO NOT HAVE THE RECALLED PRODUCT. TO RESPOND, COMPLETE THE REQUESTED INFORMATION ON THE ENCLOSED POSTAGE-PAID, BUSINESS REPLY CARD AND RETURN IT TO US WITHIN FIVE (5) BUSINESS DAYS.

The recall of **Azithromycin tablets** is being conducted to the **retail level**.

Our records indicate that you may have received shipment of the affected lot between **August 2006** and **August 2007**. Please check your stock immediately against the table above. If you have any of the affected product in your inventory, please stop distribution and promptly return to **Stericycle Inc.; 2670 Executive Drive Suite A; Indianapolis, IN 46241; Attn: Greenstone LLC – Azithromycin tablets** using the enclosed pre-paid UPS label. If you require additional shipping labels or have questions regarding the return procedure, please contact Stericycle Inc. at 1-800-805-3093.

If you have further distributed this lot to wholesale or retail level accounts, please conduct a sub-recall and communicate this recall information to those accounts immediately. Please request that they immediately cease distribution of the affected lot and promptly return the product directly to the above address (your accounts do not need to fill out a business reply card; however, if they have inventory of the affected product, they can contact Stericycle Inc. at 1-800-805-3093 to obtain pre-paid shipping labels for product return). Further authorization is not required for product return. Reimbursement for the returned product will be made by credit memorandum. If you have any questions regarding the reimbursement, please contact your Greenstone Customer Service Representative at 1-800-447-3360.

This recall is being conducted with the knowledge of the Food and Drug Administration. We appreciate your immediate attention and cooperation and sincerely regret any inconvenience you may have been caused by this action. If you have any questions regarding the product, please contact Pfizer (Greenstone) Medical Information at 1-800-438-1985.

Sincerely,



February 5, 2009

Dear Colleague:

In light of National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day (NBHAAD), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reminds its partners that HIV remains a threat to the health, well-being and human potential of African American communities in the United States. African American men and women of all ages continue to be disproportionately affected by HIV. Although African Americans comprise only 12% of the US population, they account for nearly half of all new HIV infections and almost half of those living with HIV.

A recent independent analysis by the Black AIDS Institute found that if black America were its own country, it would rank 16th in the world in number of people living with HIV—ahead of Ethiopia, Botswana and Haiti. We cannot allow this epidemic to continue on its current course. Data indicate that 1 in 16 black men and 1 in 30 black women in the United States will be diagnosed with HIV infection in his or her lifetime. Of particular concern are data indicating that among blacks, young people ages 13-29 are most affected. Furthermore, there are troubling signs of a worsening epidemic among young black men who have sex with men (MSM).

An article published today in the *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR)* focuses on data collected from a sexually transmitted disease clinic in the Jackson, Mississippi area, which showed a significant increase in the number of young black men diagnosed with HIV. A review of state surveillance data indicated a 45% increase in the number of new diagnoses of HIV among young black MSM in the three-county Jackson, Mississippi area (Hinds, Rankin, and Madison counties) from 2006-2007 compared with 2004-2005. At the request of the Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDOH), CDC and MSDOH conducted an investigation to characterize the risk behavior and testing behavior among young black MSM in Jackson. The *MMWR* article summarizes the investigation, which found that, during the 12 months before HIV diagnosis, many young black MSM reported unprotected anal intercourse (69%) and sex partners from older age groups (55%). Additionally, 38% reported one or no HIV tests during the two years before diagnosis. The authors conclude that access to existing prevention and testing services in Mississippi should be expanded, and additional targeted interventions that decrease HIV risk behaviors and increase HIV testing among young black MSM should be developed, implemented, and evaluated to reduce HIV transmission.

Addressing the unacceptably high rates of HIV among blacks, and particularly black MSM, is a challenge due to the many factors involved, including risk and testing behaviors, homophobia, and stigma surrounding both same-sex behavior and HIV. National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day is a day to focus our attention and efforts on reducing the barriers to HIV prevention that prevent many African Americans at risk from seeking HIV testing, treatment, and support.

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On this 9th Annual National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day, CDC urges its partners to work together—as individuals, as communities, and as a nation—to accelerate recent progress and meet the serious challenges that remain. Together we can change the course of this epidemic, but it will take a continued commitment from all of us.

Thank you for all you do to support HIV prevention.

Sincerely,

/Richard J. Wolitski/

Richard J. Wolitski, Ph.D.
Acting Director
Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention
National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral
Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention