The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has received increasing reports of disseminated gonococcal infection (DGI), an infrequent, but serious, complication of gonorrhea [1]. Although there has been no increase in confirmed DGI cases in San Diego County, gonorrhea cases are increasing, and DGI is likely underreported. For additional information and resources, click here.

Providers are advised to do the following:

- Consider DGI for any sexually active patient who presents with septic arthritis, polyarthralgia, tenosynovitis, suggestive skin lesions, endocarditis, or meningitis.

- If there is clinical suspicion for DGI:
  - Obtain and process urogenital and extragenital (i.e., rectal and/or pharyngeal) specimens for nucleic acid amplification testing and culture for Neisseria gonorrhoeae.
  - Obtain and process specimens from disseminated sites (e.g., skin, synovial fluid, blood, cerebrospinal fluid) for culture for N. gonorrhoeae.
  - Obtain specimens for testing before initiating antimicrobial therapy, if possible.

Continued on Page 2.
Editorial Note (Continued):

- Treat suspected and confirmed DGI cases according to CDC guidelines, preferably in a hospital setting and in consultation with an infectious disease specialist [2].

- Report suspected and confirmed DGI cases to the HIV, STD, and Hepatitis Branch within one working day by faxing a Confidential Morbidity Report to (619) 692-8541.
  - Indicate “disseminated gonococcal infection” or “DGI” as the disease being reported.
  - Laboratory reporting of positive tests for gonorrhea does not fulfill the separate legal requirement for clinicians to report gonococcal infections to local public health jurisdictions in California.

- Submit all culture isolates from urogenital, extragenital, and disseminated sites in DGI cases to the San Diego Public Health Laboratory (SDCPHL).
  - Please notify them and obtain required submission forms by calling (619) 692-8500 (select option 1) or by emailing phslaboratory.hhsa@sdcounty.ca.gov.
  - SDCPHL will submit the isolates to CDC for further testing.

- Test all patients with DGI for the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), unless they are already known to be living with HIV, as well as syphilis and chlamydia. Laboratory support for supplemental testing is available through SDCPHL if needed.