

# CONTACT OF EARLY INFECTIOUS SYPHILIS

Dear Doctor

The bearer of this letter is a contact of a patient who has been diagnosed with early infectious syphilis.

All recent sexual contacts (within 3 months) of infectious syphilis should receive immediate treatment regardless of symptoms or serology.

Recommended treatment regimens are:

- Benzathine penicillin 1.8 grams by intramuscular injection STAT or
- Doxycycline 100 mg twice-daily for 14 days (if penicillin allergic or unable to tolerate injections)

NOTE: Benzathine penicillin is dispensed under the PBS as 900mgx10 pack, 1x900mg vial is administered to EACH buttock as a stat dose, the remaining 8 vials are not needed. It is available from large pharmacies or by referral to your local Sexual Health Clinic.

Condoms are highly protective for penetrative sex, however as syphilis can be acquired during oral sex, all contacts are advised to be treated.

If your patient is found to have a positive syphilis serology it is important they also notify their recent sexual contacts.

Regular testing for syphilis and other sexually transmissible infections is recommended, details can be found on the STIGMA website ([www.stigma.net.au](http://www.stigma.net.au)).

Thank you

Endorsed by:



The Royal Australasian  
College of Physicians

**Adult Medicine Division**

**Australasian Chapter of Sexual Health Medicine**

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