

MPOX

Information for GPs – please distribute to all staff

1. Six cases of mpox have been detected in NSW in the past month
2. Encourage mpox vaccination in sexually active men who have sex with men (MSM)
3. Test for mpox in MSM with lesions, especially those who have recently travelled overseas, or had sex with someone who has travelled overseas

Current situation

- Mpox (formerly monkeypox) is circulating in South East Asia and Western Pacific regions
- Of the six cases in NSW in the past month:
 - three were acquired overseas and three in NSW after sex with an overseas traveller
 - five reported MSM activity, and one reported heterosexual sex with female sex workers
 - five of the six cases were unvaccinated.

Mpox vaccination

- Two doses of mpox vaccination (JYNNEOS) 28 days apart are recommended for:
 - All sexually active gay and bisexual men (cis and trans) and their sexual partners
 - Sex workers
- Find a mpox vaccination clinic at health.nsw.gov.au/mpox-clinics
- **Mpox presentation**
- Prodrome with fever, malaise, myalgia, lymphadenopathy – prodrome may not occur
- Vesicular rash at the site of infection – often in the genital area but can be any part of the body
- Painful proctitis can occur without visible lesions.

Who to test

- Test MSM with lesions with overseas travel within the previous 3 weeks
- Test MSM with lesions with history of sex with an overseas traveler within the previous 3 weeks
- Consider testing MSM with anogenital lesions without an overseas travel history or known link
- Test heterosexual people with anogenital lesions where other causes have been excluded.

Testing

- For patients considered at high risk of mpox, wear a surgical mask, gown, and gloves while examining and taking swabs
- Collect lesion material from two morphologically distinct lesions using dry swabs
- Place the swabs in individual sterile containers and request mpox PCR
- Collect urine and separate swabs to request other sexually transmissible infection (STI) testing - HIV and syphilis testing (blood specimen) should also be requested.

Advice to the patient at the time of testing

- Inform the patient that mpox may be suspected and provide the mpox fact sheet at health.nsw.gov.au/mpox-cases
- Advise patient to cover all lesions with a dressing, particularly those not covered by clothing
- Advise patient to avoid sexual activity until after the test result is known
- Advise patient to not share bedding, towels, clothing, unwashed crockery and cutlery.

Notification and further information

- Notify the local Public Health Unit of positive swabs on 1300 066 055
- Contact your local sexual health clinic or call Sexual Health Information Link on 1800 451 624.

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