Information about the combined oral contraceptive pill and antibiotics

Antibiotics can make the combined oral contraceptive pill less effective. This means that women who use this method are at risk of becoming pregnant when they are taking some antibiotics. If you are told by the nurse/doctor that the medicine you are being given does have an effect on your contraception it is important that the following advice is adhered to:

• follow the advice in this leaflet about avoiding all sexual contact until the antibiotic treatment is fully completed
• for the seven days after your treatment has finished you must use condoms
• if your antibiotic treatment ends during the last seven days in your pill pack, do not have a break and start the next packet straight away
• if you have missed any of the pills in your current or previous packet please tell the nurse as you might need Emergency Contraception

For further information contact:
Gateshead Sexual Health Services
13 Walker Terrace
Gateshead
Tyne and Wear
NE8 1EB
Freephone: 0800 42 20 200

Important information about antibiotic treatment

NHS South of Tyne and Wear
(serving Gateshead Primary Care Trust, South Tyneside Primary Care Trust and Sunderland Teaching Primary Care Trust)
is committed to raising the standard of written information for patients, their carers, people who use the NHS and the general public.

This information can be made available in another format or language on request. Please contact the Communications and PR Team Tel: 0191 529 7118 Email: mopil@sotw.nhs.uk

Production date: Jan 2009
Author: Head of Sexual Health Services
Code: 0109/141
Important information about antibiotic treatment

Date: ______________________
Clinic Number: ________________

During your visit to the clinic today you have received some antibiotic treatment. This is because you have either been diagnosed with an infection, or we believe you are at risk of having an infection that can normally be treated with antibiotics.

The antibiotic you have been given is called ______________________

You will have been given full instructions from the Nurse/Doctor about how you should take your medicine. Inside the medicine box you will find extra information which we advise you read.

Below is some important information that we would like to draw your attention to:

**It is important that you avoid all sexual contact, even with a condom:**
- until _____________ as this is when the antibiotics will have had time to work
- with any current or previous partners (even while you are taking your treatment) until you know that they have been fully tested and treated for the same infection
- if you or your partner/s are still waiting for test results. If one or more of the results is positive for a different infection please continue to avoid all sexual contact until you are fully treated for it. One of the Nurses/Doctors will tell you when it is safe to start sexual activity

**General information about your medicine**

Please remember to take all doses and complete the course. **Unless you do this we cannot guarantee that the infection will be fully cleared.**

If you vomit less than two hours after taking your medicine or you suffer from severe diarrhoea during the course of your medication, please ring us on 0800 42 20 200 for advice.

If you have any questions or concerns about your medicine outside of our normal working hours please ring NHS Direct for advice on 0845 46 47.