INVASIVE GROUP A STREPTOCOCCUS (iGAS) CHEMOPROPHYLAXIS

iGAS CHEMOPROPHYLAXIS

iGAS infections can cause severe manifestations such as Streptococcal Toxic Shock Syndrome, soft-tissue necrosis (e.g. necrotizing fascitis) and meningitis.

Pharmacists can support patients, identified by public health, by assessing and prescribing antibiotics. Chemoprophylaxis within 7 days can reduce the risk of developing severe symptoms.

PROCESS

1. Patients identified as high risk by Public Health are provided with a letter stating their close contact status.

2. Asymptomatic contacts are instructed to seek a prescription for iGAS chemoprophylaxis from an appropriate prescriber, which now includes pharmacists.

3. **All pharmacists** may prescribe an appropriate single course of antibiotics in alignment with the medSask guidelines and the patient-specific letter issued by the Medical Health Officer or Public Health.

DOCUMENTATION

Documentation needs to occur on the iGAS Disease Chemoprophylaxis PAR.

PAR must be sent to the primary care practitioner.

BILLING

Eligible for any Saskatchewan resident with a valid Health Services Number (excluding residents of Special-care homes)

- Invasive Group A Strep. Fee: **$25.00**
- **Maximum of FOUR (4) claims** in a 365-day period per patient

Billing Code: 00951677

NOTES

A copy of the letter to support the pharmacist's prescribing must be maintained.

Before prescribing pharmacist are required to read and understand the Communicable Disease Control Manual section (2-40) - Group A Streptococcal Disease (invasive) through self-directed study.

This tool is intended as a quick reference to support practice. Pharmacists should review and be familiar with SCPP and DPEBB policy, including general policies for prescribing authority.

All pharmacists are authorized to prescribe under this Level II prescriptive authority. There are no formal training requirements, and pharmacists are not required to submit a Declaration of Completion or apply to have conditions removed from their licence prior to prescribing.

Visit the PAS member website for more information

PHARMACY ASSOCIATION OF SASKATCHEWAN