

INSTRUCTIONS-LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF ONLY

Use the approved language in this standing order to create a customized standing order to be used exclusively by your agency. A customized standing order is usually printed on your agency's letterhead and signed by your medical director with effective start and end dates.

Standing Order: Treatment of Genital Warts

All registered nurses employed or contracted by [name of local health department] may administer treatment for Genital Warts after training with a preceptor (mid-level practitioner or physician) and having competency to administer treatment documented according to local health department policy and procedure.

Assessment

Subjective Findings:

1. History of wart lesions in genital area
2. Referral by MD or midlevel practitioner after diagnosis of genital warts is documented

Objective Findings:

Documentation of diagnosis by MD or midlevel practitioner in record with treatment order.

Plan of Care

Implementation:

Application of topical treatment:

Trichloroacetic acid (TCA) 80-90% to warts and allow to dry. Apply talc or baking soda to remove non-reactive acid. Repeat weekly up to six times until warts resolve.

Nursing Actions:

1. Provide client-centered STD education, including verbal and written information on the following:
 - The importance and correct use of condoms. Explain that condoms will not prevent transmission if current or previous lesions are in genital area that cannot be covered by a condom.
 - Counsel client to notify and discuss warts with sexual partner(s).
 - Sexual partner(s) may benefit from examination to assess the presence of wart lesions and other sexually transmitted infections.
 - Counsel about the risk of HIV infection.
 - Client should avoid sexual contact until lesions are completely healed.
 - Explain to client that there is no treatment that will cure genital warts. Some treatment may make the warts go away or get smaller, but they do not prevent recurrences or get rid of the virus that causes the warts.
 - Explain that after treatment of visible warts, the potential for transmission may persist.
 - Encourage the use of good hand washing technique at all times.
 - Instruct client to stop treatment and return for evaluation if he/she develops an infection or persistent pain at the site of treatment.

Criteria for notifying the physician:

1. Consult with [name of local health department] medical director, physician or midlevel practitioner if any of the following conditions are present:
 - Persistent lesions after completion of treatment regimen
 - Signs of infection at treatment site: pain, redness, swelling, discharge
2. Contact [name of local health department] medical director if there is any question about whether to carry out any treatment or other provision of this standing order.

Follow-up requirements:

Encourage client to follow schedule for repeat treatments.

Approved by: _____ Date approved: _____

Local Health Department Medical Director

Effective Date: _____

Expiration Date: _____

Legal Authority: Nurse Practice Act, G.S. 90-171.20(7)(f)&(8)(c)

References: CDC MMWR: *Sexually Transmitted Diseases Treatment Guidelines, December 17, 2010; 59 (RR12); pp. 70-74.*

NC Division of Public Health, Sexually Transmitted Diseases Public Health Program Manual, 2011