**5.2 Template Letter to GP for close contacts of an iGAS case**

00 month 20XX

Dear Dr.

Re: Close Contacts of invasive Group A Streptococcal infection (iGAS)

Our ref:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Date of birth** |
|  |  |
|  |  |

We have identified that the above patients, registered with your practice, are close contacts of a case of invasive group A streptococcal infection (iGAS). A close contact is defined as someone who has had prolonged close contact with the case in a household-type setting during the 7 days before diagnosis of illness and up to 24 hours after initiation of appropriate antimicrobial therapy in the index case. Studies suggest that there may be an increased risk of GAS in close contacts of cases but this risk is low.

**Close contacts with symptoms of mild GAS infection within 30 days of diagnosis of the index case should be offered antibiotic treatment.** We have sent the above contacts information about the symptoms of GAS and asked that they seek medical advice if they experience symptoms of mild GAS infection (sore throat, fever, minor skin infections, scarlatiniform rash) within 30 days of diagnosis of the index case.

**The following groups are considered high-risk and are recommended to be given antibiotic chemoprophylaxis:**

* Older persons (≥75 years)
* Pregnant women ≥37 weeks gestation
* Women within 28 days of giving birth
* Neonates (up to 28 days old)
* Individuals who develop chickenpox with active lesions within the time period of 7 days prior to diagnosis in the iGAS case or within 48 hours after commencing antibiotics by the iGAS case, if exposure ongoing.
* If further cases of iGAS occur in the group of close contacts within a 30-day period, additional measures will be necessary. Please contact us in these circumstances.

For **Choice of agent** please see [here](https://www.hpsc.ie/a-z/other/groupastreptococcaldiseasegas/guidance/ChoiceOfChemoprophylaxisAgent.pdf). If none of these antibiotics are suitable, a medical microbiologist should be consulted[[1]](#footnote-1). If you suspect any more cases of invasive group A streptococcal infection, please inform us without delay.

We have advised close contacts to seek ~~urgent~~ medical attention urgently if they develop symptoms of more severe infection, for example, high fever, severe muscle aches or localised muscle tenderness, increasing pain, swelling and redness at site of wound and/or unexplained diarrohea or vomiting.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any further queries.

Yours faithfully,

Area Public Health Team

1. *Note: It remains the responsibility of the registered healthcare professionals supplying or administering medicines to check the medicine is appropriate for the patient and be aware of potential side effects. This may include checking doses, contraindications and drug interactions and communicating to the patient about potential adverse effects.* [↑](#footnote-ref-1)